



SUPERNATURAL

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News PREMONITIONS

All the latest buzz from the Supernatural universe. Remember, you read it here first.

HOLLYWOOD BABYLON

Creation's Salute to Supernatural LA convention saw Jared, Jensen, Misha and more hitting California. We bring you the lowdown on what happened...

Words: Lynn Zubernis & Kathy Larson

The second annual Los Angeles "Salute to Supernatural" kicked off on March 27, 2002, bringing together long-time fan favorites, first-time guests, and good ol' buddy beer with a hole in the back of its head, and thousands of enthusiastic fans.

Julie McKellen (Vince) got things started by describing her low stems with Jensen, noting that the biggest challenge was telling her Sarah! Julie assured him that Jensen was a gentleman throughout, even telling the crew "I don't care about me, make sure Julie's comfortable." Gabriel Tigerman (Wesley), meanwhile, impressed everyone with his comedic talent by managing to work the name of his new film (Balls Like This) into his Q&A 21 times and doing impersonations of the boys, mimicking Jensen's lip and standing on his chair to imitate Jared's height.

Adele Hodge (Lore) wasn't sure what to expect from fans at this, her first convention, since even a close friend had accused him of "telling my screen boyfriend!" Luckily, however, the fans in LA bore no grudges toward him. Last up that day, Anneke Til (Jo Harvelle) shared her story of a thwarted Jared prank involving toy sauce and coffee, and described what it's like to be a 5'5" woman looking up (and up, and up...) to a 6'7" guy like Paulsen.



Jared and Jensen take some questions from the rabidly loyal LA fans.

Friday night, he's gathered at the hotel bar for purple cupid and Superdust kumskum—Aqua entertained fans with Guts N' Power "Sweet Child of Mine" and AGO's "TNT," then wowed the crowd with "How Come You Don't Call Me Anymore?" by Prince. Ade was joined by his brother on the mike to belt out Lyned Skynrd's classic "Sweet Home Alabama," staying until closing time and making sure he greeted every fan who had lined up to speak to him.

Saturday began with the fan favorite "Backstage" Richard Sprink, who was asked about the scene in Mystery Spot where Jared cries. "He's a really talented guy—and he's also like seven feet tall," Richard answered. "So when a guy like that cries—I was wearing a sticker." Character Malik Wreldel (Special Agent Victor Hernandez), wise to Jared and Jensen's reputation for pranks, confided that he was well prepared for the scene involving his face in a toilet in *Ju Ju Beelze*. "I'm a smart person. First of all, I needed to see the water go down. Then I stood next to the toilet. The whole time!"

Samantha Smith (Mary) again proved a true Supernatural fan herself. However, even she couldn't answer one fan's question, "How come Ruby can eat solid French Vodka?" The day concluded with a costume contest (thus the teddy bear, who won hands, or rather paws, down), a double bill concert by Jason Mraz and Snow Patrol, and a dessert party with the guests. Mike Collins confided that he'd skipped dinner to take advantage of all the desserts. No word on whether he ever got a chance to eat any between all the talking to fans.

Sunday morning breakfast was too early for some; Jensen included. He



Mike Collins on stage

sheepishly admitted that, while he was scheduled to be picked up at 7:55AM, he didn't actually wake up until 8:30AM. The boys had missed season four's wrap party to be at the convention, though Jensen assured us that he and Jared "had our own wrap party last night." This might explain the oversleeping?

During the GSA, Mike was just as enthusiastic about the show as the fans. "When I get to a cool scene, I'll get chills," he said, "I just can tell when that happens." "Wow, this is gonna be a cool scene," I imagine how it will happen—or rather, how I want it to happen," he continues, and his expressive face tells. "And then—Castiel gets bitchslapped!" Well, Castiel has taken a beating more than once! More seriously, Collins commented, "I've told people in my private life this is the best crew I've ever worked with, and I credit Jared and Jensen to a large degree for that. I didn't know Kim well, but just judging from the reaction that the whole crew had to his sickness and then him

dying, you could tell he was a real godfather, he seemed to take care of everyone."

Jensen was noticeably emotional about Menners. "The scene where Ben is laying on the bed dead and I'm telling him that I'm sorry. Kim directed that episode and I remember going up to his office and saying, 'I don't know how many takes I can do... how much gas I'll have to do this scene more than a couple of times.' He adjusted his camera angles and closed off the set and kicked everybody out and allowed me to do my thing."

Of course, there was plenty of time for fun as well. Jensen admitted that he wishes he never showed Jared the "put my finger" gag, because now Jared does it all the time.

Jensen was delighted to learn that he could make the crowd cheer or fall silent simply by raising both hands up (cheers), then down (quiet). This became a running joke, and during the joint GSA Jensen attempted to get the audience to cheer with a crack about Jared's long "gilly" hair. When it didn't work (the fans like Jared's hair), Jared joked, "That kinda backfired on you, didn't it?"

Jensen got him back when a fan asked about a bizarre photo of a shrunken Jared kissing a stuffed phreasant. Jensen took great pleasure in holding it up so everyone could see it on the giant screen, happily explaining that it was taken at a Future Farmers of America convention, laughing that "Jared always does those lapses."

Near the end of the day, Jensen was asked what fans could do in return for all the joy the show's given them. "Just keep on doing what you're doing. Watch the show, tell your friends—and keep winning a shirt with my picture on it. That's instant gratification right there!" We think the fans are happy to do just that, and more.

WHERE HAVE I SEEN... URIEL?

Actor Robert Wisdom needs quite an impact as the vengeful angel Uriel, but where had you seen him before? We look at some of his best-known roles...

PRISON BREAK (2007-2009)

Wisdom had previously gotten in touch with his misadventurous side as the teenage Lechero, henchman of the Son of Sam in *Paranoid*. Lechero involved himself in two Midson (Scodfield's latest escape attempt, but that didn't go too well for him, as he was shot by the guards, then became the latest of many victims to be murdered by T-Bag (Robert Knapp).

THE WIRE (2003-2006)

Wisdom appeared in two seasons of this acclaimed drama about the battle between cops and drug dealers on the streets of Baltimore. He played Major Howard "Bunny" Golson — a principled cop who's constantly frustrated by bureaucracy blocking his attempts to make changes.

DUPLEX (2008)

In this dark comedy with Ben Stiller and Drew Barrymore, Wisdom played Officer Doe, a cop who gets involved when a couple try to get rid of an elderly lady who's sub-letting part of their dream apartment. In a twist at the end, we find out something surprising about Wisdom's character.

CRACKER (1997)

In two seasons of the British TV series of the same name, Wisdom plays Detective Henry Wellington, a cop who works alongside the lead character, troubled police psychologist (Gerry "Fitz" Fitzgerald) (Robert Pastorelli). In the British original, the equivalent character to Wisdom's was played by *Hirocos* and *Doctor Who* star Christopher Eccleston.

NEWS



The UK newspaper *The London Times* has named *Supernatural* number 11 in its countdown of top 50 US shows, way above more mainstream shows like *CSI*, *House*, and *Law & Order*. They say, "If you're not watching this show, you really should be."



The TV website *Selected.com* has singled out Sam and Dean Winchester as two of their top TV stars, alongside the likes of Lucas and Nathan Scott from *Queer Tree*, *Hill*, and Dan and Jerry Humphrey of *Gooseb*. To see the list, visit www.selected.com/post/164882.



Supernatural's own Jensen Ackles is used to battling the undead as Dean Winchester, but it looks like he'll soon be dealing with them on the big screen too as the movie *Winchester* (Oct 4). Jensen's set to play Leon S. Kennedy, who in the video games the series of films are based on is a rookie cop who arrives in *Resident Evil* to find it overrun with zombies.



The *Supernatural* 'guys' good looks are well known to us, so it's perhaps no surprise that they've scored highly in the gay stars list. After *Ellen*'s annual 'Hot 100' list, Mike Collins obviously turned some heads as Gabriel, as he's a new entry to the list at #93, the Winchester brothers' dad Jeffrey Dean Morgan comes in at #70, while Jared and Jensen both made the top #15, with Jared at #12 and Jensen at #8.

BITES



Deja View CHRIS GAUTHIER



Catching up with Supernatural guest stars...

Words: Bryan Cairns

In season two, *Supernatural* fans may have thought they'd seen the end of Chris Gauthier's Ronald Rook, but he returned in *Am I or There God?* It's *Mr. Dean Winchester* as one of the Witnesses.

What was the most fun about playing a character like Ronald Rook?
I had such a blast, and the *Supernatural* set is well known around Vancouver as being one of the best to work on. It's really such a well-oiled machine. Playing Ronald Rook was one of the better experiences I've ever had. He was such a smart, vulnerable guy with a beautiful arc, and it's rare to play those types of characters. He's so personable, amiable and misunderstood. I related playing Rook, and I was so glad they brought me in for a second episode [*Am I or There God?*]. It's like, *Dean Winchester*, because we had so much fun

For your first episode, *Nightshifter*, was it easy embodying Ronald's energy?
Those are the kinds of characters that I associate with the show. They're quirky, wound up, and his dialogue just flowed off my tongue. It's all about playing someone who isn't normal or boring. It's easy to play someone who has conviction. If it's all base, off kilter, or overacted. As long as you have conviction, there's a solid point to playing a role. It's harder to play ambiguous people.

Ronald was a conspiracy theorist. Do you buy into any of that stuff?
I don't think so, or not to any great degree.

There is some stuff you have to look at twice, like government material. I'm not that huggy into it, so not really.

How was it going all Rooko in the bank?
That was so much fun, because we shot in an actual bank. We were on location for [the episode]. I have to say, there's a liberating feeling about shooting a gun in a bank! [Laughs] I had an M-16, and it was very cool. You can just connect to something like that. I run down there and I believe my line is, "Hey everybody, this is not a stick up!" Then we went to commercial. It's kind of a classic line that could easily go over your head, but if you think about it, it's really quite funny.

Ronald was just trying to do the right thing by his dead friend, so did you feel saddened by his demise?

For sure. He was shot on with what he was taking about. Obviously, not about the guy being a misfit, but he was pretty close on his lines. He knew it and turned his gut instincts. A lot of people were saddened by the fact that Ronald was shot, almost like a martyr. He was just a really sweet character to play, and I was sad to see him go.

Gave how Ronald went out, did it make sense that they wanted you back for that second episode, *Am I or There God?* It's *Mr. Dean Winchester*?

I think so. These were people that came back to haunt Sam and Dean because they had been let down. It was almost as though they brought me into their world only to be

permanently taken out. That was most people's problem with them. We had such a good time working on that original episode with Phil Sgriccia, who was directing the second one as well, so he wanted me back.

How did you go about making this spin of ambiguous Ronald different than the human Ronald?

It was a different character. This time, the spin was obviously quite cynical and being in tunnel if he's going around haunting people. It's totally different circumstances. That's the tangible reason of something going bad and let down by the system. If you look at Ronald in the first episode when the boys let him down, it was "You're totally wrong. Yes, you are wrong!" That was the first "Borne you!" to be called for it. Now it was "Nothing else matters. There is no moral code."

How does it feel to have 'died' twice as the same character on the same show?

I think that's pretty cool. That's a testament to having a lot of fun on set. Phil said to me, "If *Supernatural*, you should have known you might be back."

What was the best part about working with Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles?

They're such good guys. Everybody was professional. The scenes were a breeze to do. It wasn't just Jared and Jensen, it really is like the entire set is a family over there. It's a very welcoming home to go into. There was a sense of letting loose and having fun!

LIFE'S THAT WAY

A Memoir



Jim Beaver

Life's That Way

We know him best as the Winchester brothers' most trusted ally, Bobby Singer, but you may not know that Jim Beaver is also an accomplished writer. His *Life's That Way* is a memoir based on his tightly written letters. Jim used to write with his wife, the actor and casting director Cindy Adams, and with her often in with the actor and casting director Cindy Adams, and they learned their daughter Maddie was autistic. In the writing time, Jim and his family experienced not only heartache, but also the love and kindness of those around them. As Jim puts it, there are hard-earned blessings. *Life's That Way* The stories were read by the sounds of people around the world, and now, with no haunting in hindsight, they appear in book form, where they're sure to inspire many more people with the power of the human spirit. On the one hand heartbreaking, *Life's That Way* also finds the humor and possibility in life, and should strike a chord with anyone who's experienced loss. *Life's That Way* is published by Amy Carlsen Books/Penguin, and is available at all good bookstores now.

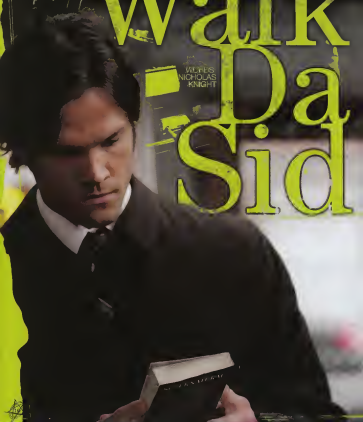
SUPERNATURAL



THE
LORDS & LADIES
INTERVIEW

A Walk Da Sid

WUPES
NICHOLAS
KNIGHT





On The rk e

Season four has reached its shocking finale, and we're anxiously awaiting the beginning of *Supernatural's* season five! Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles give us their reactions to developments like Sam's blood drinking and the introduction of the third Winchester brother, and look forward with us to the new season...

You never know what to expect when you're on the *Supernatural* set with Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki. In some cases you'll find yourself spontaneously shouting "ouch," while in others you'll be cracking your nose and reaching for a gas pump. Either way, you'll soon be laughing.

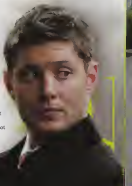
During the filming of *Lucifer's Rising*, Ackles had to run at full tilt and run into some church doors that Genevieve Cortese's Ruby had slung shut upon seeing him. Over and over again he threw his shoulder into the doors, but he always held his ground. Then, on the last take, he bounced off the doors and the impact knocked him to the floor. "Ouch!" If that had been an accident, it sure would have been painful — but the grin on Ackles' face belies the truth: It was just one of his prearranged props. "Yeah, sometimes I just do it for fun," he admits later in his trailer. "Nobody knew I was gonna do it, but I knew we had it in the take before, so I figured I'd just throw something funny in there."

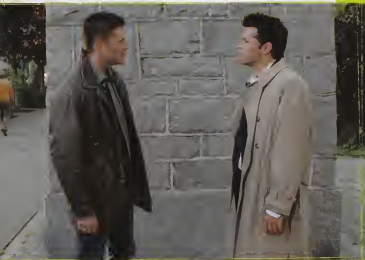
In fact, Ackles and Padalecki throw funny things into the mix so often that neither of them can come up with memorable stories on request.

"Some of those things just happen so quick, and then I forget about them the next day," Ackles explains. "There's a lot of that on set, especially in the impus. I'll look over and Jared's just looking at me. I'm like, 'What? You didn't?' And then I'll have to get out of the car."

It's no wonder Ackles has taken up golfing — to get some fresh air! "I'm doing a lot of golfing these days," he says. "I've always kind of played golf, fiddled with it every now and again, but for some reason this year I'm getting more into it. One of the things I love about golf is that you can get out there for four or five hours and not think about anything else. There's a course up in North Vancouver where you're sitting on the tee box and you're looking out over the city from the top of a mountain. There are deer running across the fairways and stuff. It's just gorgeous. When you're out there, you're not thinking about, 'Oh, what do I have to do tomorrow?' Or, 'Where am I going this weekend?' Or anything like that. You just set up the ball and try to hit your next shot."

"Somebody used to say once, 'You know why actors like golf?' It's





“TO DEAL WITH SOMETHING ON A BIBLICAL LEVEL ADDED A NICE TWIST TO THE STORYLINE. HEY, GO BIG OR GO HOME, RIGHT?” – JENSEN

because it's a lot like acting. When a director tells 'action,' there's a moment there where you can be great. Same thing with a golf shot. When you address a ball, there's a chance that you can do something really great. It could also fly off into the woods and be crap, but... it's the same thing with acting – you could have a really bad, bad take. I thought that was kind of a funny analogy.”

Some people refer to walking out in costume as being in God's Country, and golfing might be the closest Ackles gets to being near God on Earth, because he

doesn't expect the Lord to make an appearance on *Supernatural* anytime soon. “I don't think so, but that's just my prediction,” he said. “I think it's kind of like God's the president and he's sent his generals to Earth to take care of the mess. I don't think he's going to come over here and be like, ‘Hey, what seems to be the problem?’” Maybe Dean will have to talk to a burning bush? “Ah, no, I don't think so.”

Okay, so we have to settle for God's generals, the angels. No complaints here! None from Ackles, either. He thinks the angels are “really cool,” and Jensen's

portrayal of Castiel, in particular, has made a big impact on him. “Because of the way the show is [structured], we have lots of guest cast come on week after week, and some of them have been good and some have not been as good, so I'm always kind of hesitant to really understand what the character's going to be because you never know who's going to play it.”

“Josh had such a take on Castiel that it really threw me, because I didn't know him well enough to know that that was an actor making a specific choice for his character. Which, to be honest, for a television series a lot of people just come on and act, but they don't really sit down and make a choice for a character, like ‘I want to take it this way and I want to do something that's completely not me and make a character out of it. They'll just come on and play themselves, and that's usually why they get the role. But Josh did something special. At first I was like, ‘Oh no, what is he doing?’ Why is he acting so weird? Is this guy really like that? Is this who we're going to deal with?” Then I got to



know him and he's a cool, laid-back guy. It was very exciting for me to know that I was going to be working with somebody who could really make a committed choice to a character. And it worked—I loved it! I was caught off guard at first, and it took me a little while to get used to what he was doing, but that actually played well for the character, because Dean would've been caught off guard by an angel as well. I'm really happy Matt's part of the gang, and I think the character really takes some great turns in the season finale that are gonna shake a lot of stuff up for season five."

The presence of the angels has already shaken up the Supernatural universe pretty thoroughly. "It's really upped the ante," concurs Arden. "We've gotten into some real big epic storylines, and it's cool because it introduced some really unique characters, like Castiel and Anna, and obviously it got Ruby and Lilith more involved, which was great. We're dealing with things on a much larger level, and it takes the guys to an interesting spot, because now they're feeling like this is all way bigger than them and they don't know how to handle it. It's a situation that they're not used to dealing with. They're usually killing vampires and taking out ghosts and supernatural and stuff like that. To deal with something on a biblical level added a nice twist to the storyline. Hey, go big or go home, right?"

You can't get much bigger than Lucifer! Which begs the question: Where do we go now? How soon will the boys come face-to-face with Lucifer? Can they ever even go back to chasing ghosts and Chupacabras when The Prince of Darkness is loose on Earth? That's a great question, and I have no idea," Padalecki admits. "I don't know

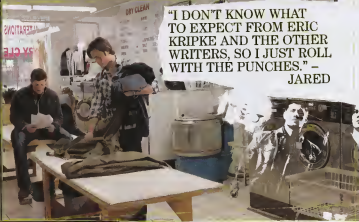


KILLING LILITH

Jacob Padalecki always puts great effort into the heavy emotional scenes on *Supernatural*, and perhaps his most intense scene yet happened in *Lucifer Rising* when Sam talked Lilith. First he had to choose between listening to his brother (who was trying to stop him), and listening to Ruby, who was pushing him to kill Lilith. Then

he had to deal with the implications of Ruby's deceit, which led to Sam inadvertently freeing Lucifer. "That was such a hard day for me," Padalecki shared. "I felt like I had a hangover for days from going where I had to go emotionally when I found out I'd started the end of the world and brought on the Apocalypse. It's not like you read the script and go, 'Oh, cool! Well, let's chase

butterflies! Everything is all happy and good... You really have to commit, and you have to go deep. That's also where the excitement of being an actor comes in, it's committing and finding new things, and creating. It's discovering those kind of things that you didn't think would happen, where you go, 'Wow, I didn't know I'd feel like that.' That's just so cool."



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ERIC KRIPKE AND THE OTHER WRITERS, SO I JUST ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES." – JARED



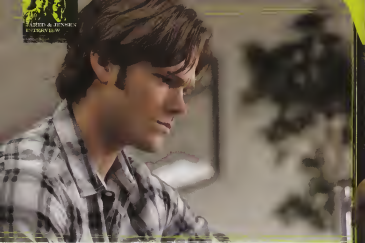
what to expect from Eric Kripke and the other writers, so I just roll with the punches. I'm really anxious, as a fan, to see what happens. I'm really excited about series five, and I can't wait to see where the writers take it."

Ever since we learned that Sam had demon-given powers, fans have been wondering just how far the writers will take his journey to the dark side. Not that long ago, many people—including Padalecki himself—assumed that Sam and Ruby would never hook up. He said he didn't think that storyline would pan out. Of course, the writers did go there. "I thought it was interesting," Padalecki reflects. "Supernatural is real, and never has been—and hopefully never will be—a show about sex and lust and all of that kind of stuff that you expect as teen melodrama. I think the most explosive thing about the relationship is that Sam is needy and he's searching for something, and it's out of this weakness that he starts going down that path with Ruby. Obviously we know now that he wasn't hooking up with her just for sex, she was also providing him with demon blood and he's become addicted to

her. It shows Sam's strength in keeping on the [haunting] path he set out on years ago.

"I love that Sam's kind of not gone dark side but kind of started down that road. It's a tough road. There are a lot of parallels to the real world—getting tempted by power, tempted by strength, dealing with loss, and being too focused on one goal to really find balance and be able to look objectively at what you're doing, at your life. It's been nice to explore that."

While it's true that Sam hasn't truly gone dark side (yet), after drinking copious amounts of demon blood, he told Ruby in the season finale that he's changed for good. Will he continue to change into something less than human? "I hope Sam has changed for good," Padalecki asserted. "I think it'll be more interesting to see how struggle with that than if it's. 'Oh, well, I haven't drunk demon blood in a while and I'm okay now.' That kind of loose where we are in the story, so I hope Sam has tamed that corner. It's a much stronger storyline, a much stronger character arc to say, 'No, it has changed me and now I have to fight that battle.' It makes it more complicated, and it'll be interesting to see how fight that.



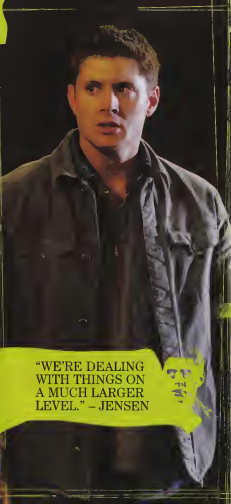
**"I THINK THE FANS DON'T LIKE IT WHEN SAM AND DEAN FIGHT, BUT IT'S PART OF THE STORY."
— JARED**



I knew one of the things Brock [intended in writing about] is more conflict, and this versus that, and good versus evil."

And Sam versus Dean. "I think the fans don't like it when Sam and Dean fight," Padalecki notes, "but it's part of the story. It's necessary to tell the story of redemption, the story of destiny, and the story of good versus evil, so we really had to flesh it out. You have to hit rock bottom to climb back up to the top. I think Sam has a power plan. Sam is the king of Supernatural, and where he decides the show goes, the show has got to go there."

Of course, the question is: What is rock bottom? Drinking demon blood from your demon lover's arm? "No," Padalecki asserts. That's just a step along the way. "I know for Sam to change, it had to be something more than just, 'Hey, hold the demon's hand and all of a sudden you have demon powers.' I never wanted it to be a montage of me crushing demons and doing push-ups and standing on my hands and stuff like that, because that would've been a bit cheesy. It was nice that it was something a little more novel, a little bit more serious and dark and dirty and seedy. There's a whole mythology that goes into drinking blood, and what happens when you drink somebody's blood



**"WE'RE DEALING
WITH THINGS ON
A MUCH LARGER
LEVEL." – JENSEN**



is that you take on that person's attributes. I think it was a nice touch." A nice, dark touch.

So how far is Sam from hitting rock bottom? How dark is too dark for the fans to accept? "I think he's getting there," says *Azules*. "I think he's going to go to a place where he can't get back from entirely. I think it's going to change the dynamic of the characters, which is cool. To have a show with characters and a storyline that are *evolving* is always much more interesting than having the same thing week after week after week. *Dean's* character is taking a dramatic turn that could change the façade of the whole character, and the way he's written and the way he thinks and talks and acts and walks, so I'm interested in seeing how far they'll take that in season five. Obviously there's gotta be that brother connection, though. It's the true [backbone] of the show. I don't think they're going to take it so far as to sever that connection. I think that there's gonna be this long journey of re-strengthening that brother bond. I'd like to see Sam try to get back to a common ground where they can be brothers again."

If Sam doesn't come around, maybe there are more Winchester brothers out there for Dean to pol around with? "I think the fans wouldn't be too happy with that," Padalecki said. "It would have been an issue if the brother [from *Jump the Shark*] had been alive, if it was some guy sitting in the back of the hospital. But it was nice because he turned out to be a ghost."

Did the writers jump the shark by introducing a third Winchester brother? "No," said Padalecki, "because I think when the Poos jumped the shark on an otherwise realistic show [*Happy Days*], it really ruined it, but *Supernatural* is so wacky anyway, I think throwing in something like that probably didn't surprise people."

So what would surprise people? Having the series finale be a final confrontation between the brothers whose good Dean has to kill evil Sam? "To be honest, I don't know," said *Azules*. "They just might take it that far. The fans would want to kill Eric, but if it's the last episode he could be like, 'Yeah, sorry, see ya. Game over.' You never know. I've gotta go trying to second-guess Eric *Argyle*!"

The only thing to do is keep watching—and prepare to be surprised! ☼





Sam and Dean may have thought they'd seen the last of the Ghostfacers, but they proved surprisingly useful to the Winchesters in *It's A Terrible Life*. To find out more about the Ghostfacing business, we caught up with Ed Zeddmore and Harry Spengler (otherwise known as A.J. Buckley and Travis Wester)...

STAY RAZ



The Ghostfacers have returned, not only to point the alternate versions of Sam and Dean in the right direction in *R's A Fonda Life*, but also to promote their How To ghost-hunting video, which can be found at their official website: www.ghostfacers.com. When you're at their site, don't miss the Sticking Studer and GMA (Ghost Manual Arts) videos. As the Ghostfacers say, "Watch and learn," as we answer their call.

The Official Supernatural Magazine: Your video on how to face ghosts is very informative. Thank you for making it!

Henry Spangler: I hope it's of good use. We put it out there to make sure people know what to do in the face of the supernatural.

Ed Zeddmore: Because God forbid, you don't know. You know? And now you know. And knowing is half the battle.

On your video, you describe digging up bodies as gross... How many have you actually dug up, salted, and burned?

EZ: If we admit to anything like that, we might be coming ourselves into some sort of nothern of getting arrested - because it is illegal - and we're not down with that. So we don't suggest anything like that.

HS: We don't condone it.

EZ: Yeah, we don't condone it.

HS: But let's put it this way: the Ghostfacers do what they have to do.

EZ: And there is dirt under our nails. Where it

came from, I'm not saying...

HS: And there's a dirty shovel in Ed's car.

EZ: I'm good in the garden. Let's just put it that way.

HS: We've got green thumbs.

EZ: Green? How do we have green thumbs?

HS: It's like one of those terms you use when you like being in the garden.

EZ: My thumbs are dirty, they're not green.

HS: Well, my thumbs are kinda green.

Where have you been sticking your thumbs to make them green?

HS: My nose.

That's what we thought. Okay, so when you've been gardening, what's the grossest thing you've come across?

ED: Look, you never know what's ahead, but we like to think that whatever comes our way, we're prepared for it, so being ill.

HS: Yeah, we know what's out there and we're ready for it.

Thanks to Sam and Dean Winchester.

EZ & HS: Haha?

You guys pretty much admitted on your video that you learned most of what you know from the Winchesters. Yet, you called them douchebags and douchebitches, and said they suck ass. Seems a little ungrateful. Do you really hate them that much?

Words: Nicholas Knight

EZ: We're not felers.

HS: We don't hate the Winchester. We don't hate anybody.

EZ: Yeah, we don't hate anybody. Nor do we like to use such words as douchebag and whiney, but it's like when a puppy dog keeps peeing on the floor, sometimes you gotta rub their nose in it and say, "Buddy, outside with that. Outside." And I realized that the Winchester are puppy dogs.

Well, since you put it that way, we're a little nervous thinking that the fate of the world is resting with a couple of puppy dogs. So, can we count on the Ghostfacers to save the world from Lucifer if the Winchester can't hack it?

HS: First of all, if the Winchester have some sort of demon problem, they owe us a phone call. Because they know that if there's a problem, we're the ones who are gonna solve it, not them.

Sometimes we think Hell might actually freeze over before Sam and Dean call on you guys for help... However, do you expect you'll get a call from God, maybe get a visit from an angel?

HS: Spruce is the spiritual leader of the group. In his last meditation, he said that he had a sign. He woke up from his meditation in a cold sweat and said we're one step closer to him. We rely on Spruce to give us those sorts of spirit-world heads-up.

"You need to first face the ghost within before you can face the ghost without." – Harry



EZ: Meenas from the spirit world.

It's been about a year since you shot the pilot episode of the *Ghostfacer* reality show. What have you been up to?

HS: This past year we've been very busy. Ed had the outstanding idea – revolutionary, really – that we needed to get down to Los Angeles, because we have something that people want to see. And that's the truth. You hear about *The X-Files*, how the truth is out there. Well, well, that's us – we're out there. We're the Ghostfacers, and we're out there.

EZ: We're noble. We can infiltrate, get reconnaissance, and come back with truth.

HS: Pretty much all the information you need on the Ghostfacers is on our official website. Right now we're focusing on being ghosts, we're going to have cameras rolling on that stuff and basically our mission is to get it out there and show people what we face.



What's the size of your team these days?

EZ: The size of our what?

Team. Is the full team still together?

EZ: We're a team. There's no "I" in team. There's a "T" and an "E" and an "A" and an "M" – that's four of us. Maggie, Spruce, Harry, and me.

Speaking of Maggie... Harry, what's the state of your relationship with Belle adopted sister?

EZ: I'm going to plug my ears and count to twelve.

HS: It's one of those things where in the middle of Act Two you kind of start thinking, "Is the guy gonna get the girl?" But then the girl runs away. I think we're kind of in that situation.



EZ: There's no bad teaching in the field. That's our main rule. We're steady professionals. We can't mix that sort of stuff together. People see weakness. Can't have that.

What's your working relationship with each other like? Maybe you should plug your ears in turn so that you can talk candidly about each other.

EZ: Say again? With my ears plugged, I lost you. I got confused. When do I need to plug my ears?

"We're a team. There's no 'I' in team. There's a 'T' and an 'E' and an 'A' and an 'M' – that's four of us. Maggie, Spruce, Harry, and me." – Ed

Never mind about the ear plugging...

EZ: Basically I'm like Captain Kirk and Harry's Spock. I know how to fly the Impala, Harry knows how to get those. So we're a good team. We're Maverick and Goose. He's my brother from another mother.

HS: [Silence]

EZ: That's all I have to say.

HS: [Silence]

EZ: Maybe Harry's still plugging his ears?



HS: Who's plugging? I just unplugged my ears – should I re-plug them?

EZ: No, no re-plugging. We've botched the plugging. Abort, abort.

HS: Okay.

EZ: Now you've got to talk about me.

HS: Um... what's it like working with Ed? What's it like working with Patton when you're storming your way across Western Europe? What's it like riding on horseback behind Lawrence of Arabia? You gotta understand, Ed's a veterinary, okay? He's like the Captain Kirk of the doc.



Looking back, before the Ghostbusters, before the Hell Hounds, what inspired you to become ghost hunters?

EZ: For me, it was instinctual. Just as a lion cub knows that his paws will be used to slash and eat things in the jungle. As a ghost hunter, I just know. Then one day Harry showed up at my house with a sheet on end and it brought a tear to my eye.

HS: It was a strange Halloween that year... For me, it's one of those things where it just makes sense. It's something you feel in your gut. It's like riding a bike. You look at other people riding a bike and you say to yourself, "How come I'm not riding that bike?" Then you try to ride a bike and you get hurt a little bit... and sometimes you cry. And sometimes you have to go to the hospital. Whatever. But you get back on the bike. I never did, because that really hurt, but other people get back on the bike.

Have you been influenced by horror films or TV shows?

EZ: First *The Exorcist*. I actually crapped my pants during the movie. I was really that scared.

HS: That's a pretty realistic fear, I have to say, based on our experience. Least *Exorcist*, but most entertaining, is probably *Ghostbusters*.



EZ: I just said that.

HS: Oh. Did you get to the part about you constantly opening your shirt open and exposing your chest?

EZ: No, but—

HS: He does that. So, it's a Kirk and Spock kind of dynamic. I'm the implementation specialist. I tend to focus more on the details, whereas Ed is more of a big picture guy. I look to him to provide a lot of the vision and the leadership and then I take that – I just take the ball and run with it. So I guess it's actually a quarterback and running back dynamic.

EZ: We'd be lost without each other.

EZ: We should hug right now.

HS: Okay.

"Just as a lion cub knows that his paws will be used to slash and eat things in the jungle. As a ghost hunter, I just know." – Ed

E2: There's a little truth, but they had to Hollywood it.

H5: Buffy the Vampire Slayer—

E2: Buffy. Buffy is big on our list.

H8: We had Sarah Michelle Gellar posters up in our Airstream at one point.

E2: She is so hot. Hot. She is the hottest.

While perhaps not on the same level of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, the Ghostfreaker pilot seems to have garnered you some attention. Would you say you have a lot of fans?

THE FACES BEHIND THE 'GHOSTFREAKER'

A.J. Buckley And Travis Weber

Q—Official Supernatural Magazine: What's it been like playing the hilarious Ghostfreaker?

A.J. Buckley: These are by far the most fun characters that we've ever played, and I think I can speak for Travis as well.

Travis Weber: Yeah, and Supernatural has such a great universe. It's a very rare where a television show is able to establish such a rich and textured universe. You think of shows like Mission: Impossible and Star Trek that create their own mythology so that an actor's able to come and

draw on it and enrich it. Just being able to be a part of a property like that is a real blessing.

Director Phil Sgronic is known for making things so fun on set. Did he give you a lot of leeway for improvisation during the filming of Ghostfreaker?

AJB: Phil said that the amount of footage he had of us just riffing was ridiculous.

Travis: I think Phil had a really good time throwing obstacles at us. What we would do is we'd get the scripted stuff in, we'd make sure we had that, and then Phil would just go to town throwing different stuff at us. A good example is when Harry runs away from the rat. He didn't know that the rat was going to be there. Phil just had the prop guy throw the rat on the ground. There was a lot of fun all this, but it was all centered on this great script that Ben Edlund wrote.

Since you have so much fun playing these characters, what did you think of the spin-on TV show (or webisode) idea of having the Ghostfreakers travel around America and stay the night at supposedly real haunted houses?

TW: That sounds like a legitimate TV show to me.

AJB: I think putting us in real places and having the comedy writer would be really funny stuff.

TW: It'd be a challenge.

AJB: If I was trying to be funny and something scary happened, I'd literally stop in my tracks.

Travis: Yeah, we might not even try to be funny, we might just try to not crap our pants.



EZ: We don't like to look at them as here, we look at them as fellow 'Fiders.

H8: They're all part of the family.

EZ: I think "here" makes it sound like we're above them. The 'Fiders are a family. It's a movement.

H8: When Bruce Lee first started Jeet Kune Do, it sort of had one face, and then as the years progressed, with the evolution of that style, many other faces appeared. So Ghostfacer are sort of like that. We were one embryonic thought, and then it split into different directions. And we're like giant sponges that keep on sucking it in.

EZ: Or what's that other cloth thing on late-night television, the ShemWoe?

H8: It's called a ShemWoe, Ed.

EZ: Right, we're like ShemWoe! We just take it all in, and whenever we need to squeeze it and just turn it and release all the ShemWoe comes out, we're a ShemWoe over. It just surprises you how much stuff go into the ShemWoe and come back out.

H8: That was nicely put, Ed.

So, if someone wants to join the family, what does it take to become a Ghostfacer?

"BURN THE REMAINS!"

The Ghostfacers have their rules about what to do when faced with a ghost, as we saw in *It's A Terrible Life*, but do the Winchester boys play those rules? We look at their methods.

SALT

It may not do much for your blood pressure, but as the Ghostfacers posit out, salt's an effective weapon against vengeful spirits and has been used many times by the Winchester to protect, or as a shotgun round, to disperse ghosts. It pays not to get complacent about its worth, however – as they found in *Fearful Symmetry*, salt's not much use against a feisty girl who lives in a basement.

IRON

Sometimes the direct approach works wonders, and Sam and Dean have often found themselves swinging a poker or other iron implement to deal with a spirit. Clearly that's one advantage of having an open fire over central heating!



DIG UP THE BODY!

The Winchester boys don't do so often that they're wanted for grave desecration in many different states. It's not like they don't do it for a good reason, however. In a real moralist, Dean even dug his own

body out of the grave after his trip to Hell. That's dedication.

FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST!

It's not all action for Sam and Dean, as they (well, mostly Sam) usually have to sit the books or laptop to find out what they're fighting. Of course, Sam and Dean have Bobby and his extensive occult library to help with their research too – he's better than the Internet!

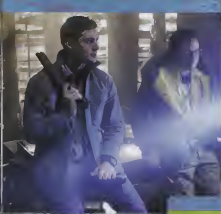
KILL IT!

Another area the Winchester excel in. Spirits, demons, werewolves, you name it, they're taking it.



BURN THE REMAINS!

It's always paid for Sam and Dean to have a lighter or some matches to hand, as they've had to burn more bodies than most criminals! Sometimes it doesn't even have to be a whole body – as they've discovered, occasionally something as simple as a lock of hair is responsible for a haunting.



EZ: We're not ones to go in like, "Hey, you're a ghost, we're going to send you back to Hell!" We're like, "Hey, we just want to get you on camera, put it online, and get a bunch of clicks and get on Oprah!" My mom said to us that if we get on Oprah one day, she would love us more.

So what's next for the Ghostfacers?

HS: We have a number of cases that we're trying so. We're just kind of living the good life right now. We don't have to work at Kinko's anymore because we sold our *Alibion*. Our main objective is to get out there and face some ghosts. That's what we do – we're the Ghostfacers.

HS: Bravery

EZ: Intact. It's like if you're a ninja and you have to walk quietly through a room so no one hears you... if you don't have it inside you to be a ninja, you get shot and killed. It's inside you, it's an internal thing.

HS: You need to first face the ghost within before you can face the ghost without.

And once you're ready to face ghosts, how should you approach them?

EZ: I think obviously you want to make sure that it's recorded – if it doesn't happen on camera, it might as well have never happened.

HS: It's like going on a fishing trip without a camera and catching a big fish and eating it and telling everybody about it. They're all like, "Yeah, I'm sure it was huge, but I didn't see it."



EZ: Yeah, whatever it is, whenever you are out there, we come in peace, but you push me. I'll test your head off!

HS: Even if you're a ghost.

EZ: That's what I mean.

HS: If you're a ghost, get ready to be faced.

EZ: Faced!

You can see more of the Ghostfacers at their Web site: <http://ghostfacers.com/>

"Our main objective is to get out there and face some ghosts. That's what we do – we're the Ghostfacers." – Harry



HOT PROPERTIES

Every item Sam, Dean, their allies, and enemies use comes courtesy of the Supernatural props department. Propmaster **CHRIS COOPER**, assistant property master **ROBIN STOOSHNOV**, and props buyer **CARMELITA FOWLER** tell *The Official Supernatural Magazine* more about arming the Winchesters...

Words: Lynn Zubarsis and Kathy Larson

Guns, swords, and noble rats. Everything David Jenkins is big on: the other actors in *Supernatural* pick up, throw, shoot – and join, out – in the responsibility of the props department. As you might expect, working on a show like *Supernatural* presents some exciting challenges for Propmaster Chris Cooper. It's also a whole lot of fun.

We sat down with Chris and two of his prop team, Robin Stoenhouse and Carmelita Fowler (below), to find out how they do it.

How much is the process do they use the script? "This show is the most amazing television show I've ever done in that respect," Chris explains. "We have scripts for the next episode, and we have outlines for everything to the end of the [season] right now. Most of us were involved in the past with other television shows where you're lucky to have a script when you start the prep period. We have scripts every here.

The writing staff on this show, and Eric [Kripke], are just amazing. Better than anyone I've ever worked with."

We ask Chris to talk us through the process of getting the show ready to go. "We start with a concept meeting, usually on day one or two of prep. All the departments meet and go over the script. The next day we have a props meeting with the director, the producers, and the production manager.

"We'll break down the script, we'll find out what we need, and then if we know that we might have a hard, we'll pull the stuff and put it upstairs in our 'where and tell' room for the director. We might buy one three or four choices, then we go with the director's vision." (If they don't have something, they buy one. Or more than one is a lot of ones.

Carmelita, the show's props buyer, explains. "If it's an expensive item I'll only buy one of each and then the director will pick one and then I'll buy double or triple or even quadruple [of his choice]. If anything





can go wrong, it usually does. That's why we get more than one of us here."

Chris feels lucky to be working with such dedicated people every day. "Everybody is on top of it and into it," he says. When Chris heard that *Supernatural* was going into production, he actively campaigned to land the job of the series' Propmaster, knowing it would be a great experience. It certainly hasn't disappointed. Most of the crew have now worked together for nearly four seasons, and their sense of community is evident on set.

Their job demands a combination of research, resourcefulness, and creativity. The demon-killing Colt is a case in point. Chris began by looking up on the real Samuel Colt. The gun used on the show is a modified version of Colt's very first design, but the original could only fire a single shot before reloading. Using that

"WE HAD AN EPISODE THAT USED BLOW-UP DOLLS. I LEARNED WAY TOO MUCH ABOUT BLOW-UP DOLLS."

gun would have been historically accurate, but dramatically impractical, so they turned it into the sawtooth we now used to dispatch various demons and vampires. In the iconic scene in *All Hell Breaks Loose* (Part 2) when Dean shoots the Yellow-Eyed Demon, Jensen really did fire the Colt (using blanks, of course).

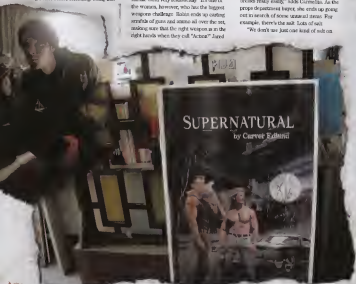
Apparently that wasn't a problem for the actor. "Jensen's always got lots of ideas for weapons he wants to use on the show," Chris laughs. "The boys are really good with the weapons, too. They can juggle a lot and handle them very aesthetically." It's one of the women, however, who has the biggest weapons challenge: Robin ends up coating armfuls of guns and ammo all over the set, making sure that the right weapon is in the right hands when they call "Action!" Jared

and Jensen juggle one or two, but Robin has to juggle them all.

The right weapon also involves the right version, Chris explains as he picks up one of two sword-cut shotguns on his desk. The one left looking as if it's the real thing, with a solid wood handle. The other looks exactly the same, but Chris explains that it has a soft rubber handle. "So we can let Jared in the face with it," he grins.

"If the scene calls for somebody getting hit, we have a real item, and then maybe three rubber items, because the rubber breaks really easily," adds Carmichael. As the props department keeps the credits up going out in search of some unusual items. For example, there's the milk. Lots of milk.

"We don't use just one kind of milk on





the signs. We use rock salt, road salt, picking salt.

"I like my job because I'm constantly learning," Carmichael says, then laughs. "We had an episode, *Bad Boys*, that used blow-up dolls. I learned way too much about blow-up dolls."

The props staff also knows a bit about knives. The collection laid out on a table in the holding room would probably make a chef weep with joy, but it doesn't stop there. The props department often has knives made to specification. No self-respecting witch, demon, or demon-god would perform a blood sacrifice using everyday cutlery, after all. These knives have to look properly otherworldly, exotic, and more than a little lethal.

Chris didn't get to design the Impala's weapons cache (it, along with several other original and new season props, came from the Pilot) but he did get the chance to design the weapons cache in the back of John Winchester's truck. Most of the impressive array of weapons decorate his office.

"It's not just about getting to find and play with the stuff," Chris says. "It's also about understanding the character, what he'd be likely to own, what he'd use to defend himself."

Sometimes it's the little things that make *Supernatural* stand out. The distinctive station on Sam's laptop? Since there's no product placement on the show, Chris had to look elsewhere for the logo. But he didn't have to look too far. The middle of the design is based on the extensive tattoo on Chris' back, punctuated out by elements from

the logo of a bike shop he frequents.

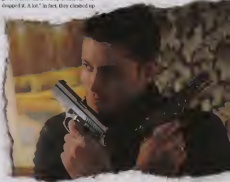
The laptop presented other challenges beyond design. As every fan knows, Sam's first laptop was destroyed when the demon-driven 18-wheeler crashed into the Impala in *Devil's Trap*. When we see the laptop next, Sam is extracting pieces of it from the car wreck. How did the props department get it to look sufficiently crushed? "We dragged it. A lot." In fact, they climbed up

the high ladders used on set and let it drop to the cement floor. Clearly thinking on their feet for the props team sometimes means thinking from a great height.

Of course, the department involved in the production of a television show wants alone. The set department creates as many original props as they can, helping to give *Supernatural* its unique look. Most of the badges the boys wear and the IDs they flash are also made in house, as are the labels on Sam and Dean's favorite beverages.

"The boys each have a favorite beer they like to drink. We buy point-five [low-alcohol] beer and then the art department designs labels and we have it sent over to a printer," Carmichael explains.

Every book Bobby consults, every illustration, a drawing by the talented staff. For the episode they were filming when we visited the set (*The Monster At the End Of This Book*), the staff had created a series of pulp novels written by Carver Eklund—a playful homage to writers Ben Eklund and Jeremy Carver. The art department obviously likes to have fun as well.



"JENSEN'S ALWAYS GOT LOTS OF IDEAS FOR WEAPONS HE WANTS TO USE ON THE SHOW"





"FANS REALLY NOTICE THE HARD WORK WE PUT IN TO MAKE EACH DETAIL WHAT IT SHOULD BE..."

Similarly, wardrobe divines the bags, but Chas conceived, and Carmelita constructed, Dean's latest bracelet—the one with skulls. Carmelita is pleasantly surprised to hear that her bag and wear replicas of the jewelry she's created for the boys. Dean's ring and buckle came from the Pilot, but she has constructed multiple versions of the amulet as well, some of them soft enough for Jensen to tell on if necessary without leaving a painful impression on his chest.

A lot depends on the props department. If a prop isn't working right, it can shut down production instantly. Luckily, Chas says proudly, that has happened only once. When filming a scene in *Family Remains*, *Supernatural*'s Director of Photography, Serge Ladouceur, was faced with a problem. The script called for no natural light (after all, it's a basement) and no artificial sources of light—no flashlight, no candles. Nothing that cameras need light, so what to do? Serge decided to use ambient lighting, which would allow him to film in total darkness. Lighting problems solved? However, as they soon found out, another props problem was created. The scene called for the girl "haunting" the house: to catch, kill and eat a rat. Carmelita had placed blood pellets inside the fake rat they'd constructed, and when actress Mandy Patinkin bit into the rat, the blood was supposed to gush out. They

shot the scene once and then stopped.

"Where's the blood?" Serge asked, looking into his monitor and seeing no evidence of rat-entrage.

Kokos takes up the story. "Tin snoring is [Mandy] and she's just covered in blood, it's running down her chin, so I'm like 'What? She's covered in a?'"

It turns out red doesn't show up under unfixed light. Once the team realized the problem, they had to fix it—fast. There is money on a television set. Chas and the team swung into action, trying to find a different color that would show up under the lights. Chas grabbed a jar of brown food coloring that they use to simulate blood, took a swig to make sure it tasted okay (sauce

Mandy was going to have to bite into it) and they were soon back to business.

Downstairs in the large props room, Carmelita stores everything from the unknown blow-up dolls to giant bags of ash to young Sam and Dean's bookshelves from *After School Special*, all neatly stacked and labeled. "For the duration of the show so far, we haven't thrown anything away. You never know when that item can come up again. Continuity on the show is really important. When an item is used, we try to use it again."

Back upstairs, in one of the smaller rooms where the team have gathered the props for the next episode, one of the first things to catch our eye is John Winchester's Journal. Amazingly, each page is painstakingly hand lettered by Robert Loefer from the art department, which has done so much the beginning of season one.

The day we sat down with Chas and his staff they were researching the model of John's cellphone, but now in the Impala's glove box is season three's Long Distance Call, ready for filming to start on *Jump the Shark*, when Sam and Dean receive that shocking phone call from Adam, or at least something that sounds like Adam. As John's cell will make an appearance, they need to get it right. Chas knows that *Supernatural* fans scrutinize every frame.

"We're really notice the hard work we put in to make each detail what it should be, and that feels good," Chas says. "We ask if it can be a challenge, knowing the fans watch so closely. 'Yes, it's a challenge, and it can be intimidating,' he says. 'But we like it—they notice our work and appreciate the level of detail we put into it, and that makes it worthwhile. At times it can be challenging to live up to, but the props department wouldn't have it any other way.'"



J



JOHN'S JOURNAL

Words: Jayna Nelson

Skin

Episode 156

Written by John Shiban

Directed by Robert Duncan McNeill

Guest starring: Amy Grabow (Rebecca); Peter Shinkoda (Alex); Aleks Holte (Zach); Anita Brown (Lindsay)

In St. Louis, armed police officers stand a building in which a man is holding a woman at knifepoint.

The man tries to escape, but the police corner him... and the torture turns out to be none other than Dean Winchester!

One week earlier, Sam crosses national from one of his old Stanford pals, Rebecca. When she informs him that her brother, Zach, has been arrested for killing a woman — but she's convinced of his innocence — Sam persuades Dean to help him investigate the case, and they head to St. Louis.

When they arrive, Rebecca tells them that she knows her brother couldn't have committed the murder because the way with him when it occurred — although a security tape shows him at the crime scene. How could there possibly be two of him? The brothers look around Zach's house for clues, with Dean posing as a police detective so that Rebecca won't question the fact that he's spying the crime scene.



Meanwhile, Zach — or someone who appears to be Zach — is making out the house of a businessman who is saying goodbye to his wife as he leaves on a trip. Zach's eyes flash white. Which is also what Sam and Dean see happen to the Zach on the security tape when they watch it, linking Sam to the crime that the subject isn't Zach at all but some kind of Doppelgänger.

The businessman, Alex, returns home to find his wife has been tortured and tied up; she begs him to leave her alone. Not understanding why she seems to be terrified of him, he's caught totally unaware when his own Doppelgänger attacks him out with a baseball bat.

Hours later, the Winchesters stumble upon Alex being arrested

for the assault of his wife and realize that he's been copied, just as Zach had been. They follow a trail from Alex's house to the servers and start to search for the creature responsible, which they realize is a shapeshifter (confirmed when they find a "pink-red" pile of skin and blood — the thing was shed its skin). They head back to the car to grab some silver bullets — silver being the only thing that can kill a shapeshifter — when Rebecca calls to say she's figured out that Dean isn't a detective after all. She's not happy about being lied to, and Sam's not happy that he can't tell Rebecca the truth about his and Dean's way of life.

The Winchesters explore the servers again in search of the shapeshifter, finding another pile of

See it himself for once, while Dean claims to be a cop. On and on, and something liquid-sounds a Winchester of course. Miles for a change.



HOT 100

MUSIC TO OUR EARS TRACKING THE TRACKS

Iron-Goddess Go-Kiss
Joni Davenport

Police Whiskey
Upward Skyscraper

Ray Men, West Street
Flare

At Right Now
Fire

Dean escapes. He has no other choice but to hunt the shapeshifter alone. However, all he finds in the streets is Rebecca — the creature has now taken her form. This is a problem, because as soon as Sam is released by the police, he goes to Rebecca's house and has to see the woman he finds there isn't really his friend.

Shapeshifter Rebecca whisks Sam with a bottle, ties him up, and changes back into Dean. The shapeshifter says he's going to kill Sam so that Dean will be hunted for the rest of his life for the murder of his brother. Sam manages to untie himself and a night's Winchester versus Shapeshifter Winchester war/droven occurs — which ends with the shapeshifter pushing Sam to the floor and strangling him. With perfect timing, the real Dean arrives and shoots the shapeshifter dead, thereby saving Sam's life.

The brothers say goodbye to Rebecca, who now understands Sam's way of life, but is grateful and happy because Sam has been cleared of murder. Unfortunately the murders have been pinned on Dean Winchester, and now Dean is officially dead in the eyes of the law. As they leave, Dean wishes he could stay in St. Louis. "How many chances am I going to have to see my own funeral?" he asks. ☐

shed skin just before the creature attacks them. Dean is hurt, and Sam goes off to chase it alone, so no real When Sam meets up with his brother again, it's not actually Dean, but Shapeshifter Dean! Sam's not stupid, however — he suspects that something is amiss and guesses "Dean" is a little before pulling out his gun and claiming that Dean had hurt his arm, while the shapeshifter's arm is fine. Realizing the game is up, Shapeshifter Dean manages to knock Sam out.

When Sam comes to, he finds he's tied up in the nursery and Shapeshifter Dean has assimilated all of Dean's memories, which explains why the creature is able to fit in so well when he impersonates someone. The creature wants Sam, telling him that Dean resented him for going off to college, and then decides that his first victim will Sam's unsuspecting college friend Rebecca.

The shapeshifter visits Rebecca as

Dean and apologizes for lying to her, also lets her into his house and they talk. Not too long, however, "Dean" starts getting a bit fresh with Rebecca. Things go from bad to worse, and before Rebecca knows it, Shapeshifter Dean has her tied up when the police arrive. The shapeshifter escapes and heads back to the nursery.

Meanwhile, Sam and the real Dean have freed themselves of their bonds in the shapeshifter's lair. They pass a shop window and see a newscast featuring an artist's impression of Dean, saying that he's wanted by the police. Awkward. The brothers have to be late, but they need to return to the impala to get weapons, and in doing so Sam is arrested by the cops, while

OH, THAT STARTS!

Winchester words and wooties

Dean finds his arm while chasing the shapeshifter. Sam gets knocked out (twice) and then has a barroom fight with his brother's double. That whole crash had to hurt.



A Kind Of MAGIC

A washed-up stage magician who was offered immortality, "The Incredible Jay" gave Sam and Dean cause to consider their own mortality. *The Official Supernatural Magazine* spoke to acclaimed actor **BARRY BOSTWICK** about card tricks, haidos, and whether he'd want to live forever....

Sam and Dean deal with curses, demonic mojo, and spells all the time, but magically, their first encounter with stage magic nearly proves fatal. In season four's *Crisis Angel* & *A Desperate Day*, the brothers encountered three aging magicians, each tempted to varying degrees by the prospect of immortality. Front and center was "The Incredible Jay" played by Barry Bostwick, perhaps best known to audiences as the upstanding Dad Malone in the cult classic musical *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Talking to *The Official Supernatural Magazine*, Bostwick reveals more about his magical performance.

The Official Supernatural Magazine: How did you get the role in Crisis Angel & A Desperate Day?

Barry Bostwick: I just got an audition. Robert Singer was in the room with a couple of other people, and I went in and auditioned. I remember at the end of the audition I said to him, "Well, thanks, nice to meet you," and I just walked out. I didn't engage in any conversation. I remember halfway to the door I turned and said, "I'm

sorry, did you have anything else to say to me?" [Laughs] And they said, "No, no!" So that was one of the shortest auditions I've ever done! Apparently, with us three guys who ended up in it [Barry, John Rubinstein, and Richard Libertini], they didn't know who was going to play which part. They knew that they wanted the three of us, and they juggled around in their minds who should play which part. They chose right! Also, given the fact that John Rubinstein's son Michael Weston played his younger son, it was like, "Wow, what perfect casting!"

Had you ever in the show before?

I'd never even seen the show, it's not the kind of show I would normally watch. It doesn't have any competition in it, like singing and dancing. That's why I can criticize or not! [Laughs] I still to this day don't know who those boys are, what they're playing, are they dead, are they alive... it has something to do with demons and Hell—I think! So every time it would flash away to a scene that had something to do with the events and the series, I was totally lost. Like the typical actor, I read my part and tried to come up with how



Words: Jayme Nelson



I wanted to play my part and my part had nothing to do with them. I had my own life to lead in the script. I never even asked them on the set, "So what's all this other stuff about?" But it's important to them!

What did you think when you read the script? You had some really lovely scenes with John Rubinstein's Oswald. Well, that's what really attracted me to it. Usually in these shows the guest stars are there just to support the leads, there's no real side story or depth to it. These guys had a real relationship, and something happened to them that wasn't just a crime being solved by Q&A, you know? I wasn't just a victim. With most of these shows, you guest star and you're either the victim or the bad guy. With this part there was a sadness to it that I was attracted to. It was age-related and well thought-out. Real sadness. It was the whole environment I was attracted to. Without trying to make it maudlin, it was a challenge, you know? I also love magic, to be honest with you. I'm a real magic fan. Whenever there's one of those illusion shows on television, I'll drop everything, sit down and be glad to sit

"THESE GUYS HAD A REAL RELATIONSHIP, AND SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THEM THAT WASN'T JUST A CRIME BEING SOLVED..."

That was handy, thank!

Wow. It was fun to try to learn the card tricks and everything. I did a few hours with one of the master magicians of the Magic Castle here in Los Angeles as preparation for it, and he taught me card manipulation, and then on the set we had a magician who was there to do some of the hand work for me if I couldn't do it quickly enough. I don't know how much of my hands are actually shown in the episode — I learned some of the tricks, like pulling the coin out of the middle of the deck — and I keep looking at [the episode] going, "Are those my hands?"

They do look like your hands, but there are a lot of cuts, so it's hard to tell.

I know we did a lot of takes in which they started on my hands and I was doing the trick and then they came up to my face without cutting. So I guess maybe they thought it was more professional the other way. I was probably fumbling about, considering I had only been practicing for two days.

You were still pretty impressive, though — you can certainly shuffle a deck! Where I was doing that sort of material shuffler? That was a trick deck.

Well, that's certainly good!

I know, but that's show business! I was trying desperately to learn it, but actually it's very difficult. It's a pretty difficult maneuver with the cards because you have to release them one at a time with just the right velocity and they fall like a waterfall. If the cards stick at all, it goes wrong. The [fun thing for me was that] executive producer [Bob Singer knew two card tricks, and he was not shy about showing them at any given moment. So he and I had some of the biggest laughs I have ever had on



is well. He would show me a trick and then bring it up, and it became like a comedy routine rather than an illusion. We had some late nights and some talking down funny, funny moments, him and I. It was also based on both of us thinking the longer what the hell we were doing! People would be just looking at us giggling over in the corner and saying, "What's wrong with these two guys?" We bonded over a deck of cards

Did your hands develop the magical elements of the show?
I was really attracted to the magic side of it. I haven't picked up a deck of cards since I got on the plane to come home, but while I was there, there was a deck of cards in my hand in every scene, just because I felt that was a nice little character thing, the guys would always have cards in their pocket. It's like sometimes these guys who

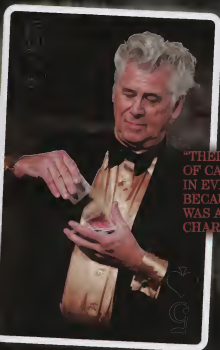
"Shit with coins. You'll always see this. I have a coin in their hand, flipping it over their fingers and making it disappear. It's a very, very difficult and precise craft, an art, all this card stuff and this manipulation I would never pretend to really know how to do it. It takes great patience. It's a combination of show business and skill. A lot of people can learn the cards, but they don't have the personality to be able to present them in a very theatrical way.

They were very good on stage — you looked like you were at home up there!
I'm an old stage actor. Who was so sad about it was when you looked out at the audience, there were only eight people! And I was pretending I was in front of thousands! [Joy recs] the blow-back hair and the old suit and the dried appendage that he was carrying around for 30 years.

Joy was responsible for a lot of the episode stuff, too, you felt some stuff worse for him. Did you bond with the other guys?
We're all sort of around the same age, a few years here and there, and we've all been in show business for as many years as these guys had been. Richard Libertini [who played Vernon] would say every day,

"THERE WAS A DECK OF CARDS IN MY HAND IN EVERY SCENE, JUST BECAUSE I FELT THAT WAS A NICE LITTLE CHARACTER THING..."

"This is my last job, I'm retiring!" And then the next day he'd say, "Oh, I can't retire!" It was three guys, curmudgeons, going around going [lots of grumpy old man voices], "Well, my pension runs in next month... blah blah blah." We talked a lot about health insurance. It was the first time I'd met Richard — felt as much a joke, distinct personality as the character. Perfect, you know? There are few actors out there who actually have the consistency of appearance. John is a bit more of a chameleon. I'm similar... just so long as my hair is neat, I'm happy.





**UNUSUAL
HIGHLIGHTS IN
DOUGLAS'S
CAREER**

"You had amazing hair in this episode. We have to congratulate you on that. Well, thank you. It was the one thing I wanted to do—I wanted to give him some sort of a theatrical 'do, you know? When he was onstage, it was a throwback to when he was a big star, and his hair was just a little too poorly, and now as he's getting older he has to hold onto his youth with his poorly theatrical hair, but only when he's onstage. There was a real sort of contrast between the theatrical version of the character and him. I thought it was good. But when I first saw it in a screening, when we were doing the taping, I said to Bob Singer, 'What's with the hair?' And he said, 'It was your choice!' Then I have the whole episode and thought, 'Well, it makes sense!'"

"I WANTED TO GIVE HIM SOME SORT OF A THEATRICAL 'DO. WHEN HE WAS ONSTAGE IT WAS A THROWBACK TO WHEN HE WAS A BIG STAR."



"Younger version of him. I thought that the look was great—and he's a very good actor. He's very simple in his acting style, even simpler than his dad. I think it's possible. His dad is so simple as an actor, with no flourishes, but Michael's more to 'You act with him and you don't think he's acting and then you see him on film and you think, 'Oh, that's what he's doing!' The hardest thing for nonactors to understand about working on film is that you really don't need to project. The camera does all the work. His father said, before he showed up, 'The anxiety he wanted to do this. Usually he doesn't do this kind of episode stuff.' I didn't know of him, but that doesn't mean anything—I only know who's on TMC (and Entertainment Tonight). I don't know any of the real actors in the business."



"There was like a line [commented in the episode where characters call you "old." You didn't find that offensive, did you? Because you're not old, actually. He's 64."

"I've a spring chicken! It's interesting—I don't think of myself as being old, and then I look at the image. I look at the face, and I think, 'Oh, the guy's getting older...' It's funny, being an actor and seeing yourself age on film. It's very leveling. You really get a clear picture of your progress and your decline, if you want to call it that—I don't think it's a decline, it's a return. But most people don't get the option or the opportunity to watch themselves mature in the way that actors do."

"Right? Yes, most of us only have photographs, and that's not the same. No, you don't get to see all the quarks and idiosyncrasies of your aging process. I like it because I pretty much know what my image is and where I'm at, so there's no delusion. If I think to myself, 'Well, I'm old (38 years old), I can pity young leading men!' then you're gonna approach auditions and your profession in a different way. But if you really look at yourself and see where you are in the pecking order,

age-wise, you'll only expend energy and effort on things that are real-life.

On what movie or TV projects do you have coming up next?

I have a movie opening, *Marlene*. *Monty: The Movie*. I have a nice little cameo in that. I have a film I've just finished with Cheryl Ladd called *Baggage* which we're trying to find a distributor for at the moment. I have time to do what my real love in this life is.

The final product is something that I'm certainly proud of, I've just spent the last two days editing out four or five scenes for a suspense reel that I'm going to send to some people and my managers will use. I thought it was that well-realized from their standpoint.

The *Upside* was actually about
exhibiting your character
intentionally - would you have gone
for that, do you think, personally?

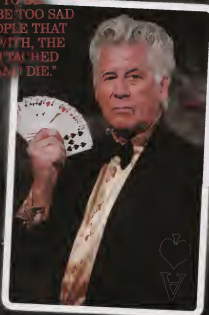
Would I want to be immortal? I don't know. I'd be too sad to see the people that I fall in love with, the people I get attached to, grow old and die. It's a *Quintus* Case Of Benjamin Button thing. I think I would be too affected by the loss of those around me. Even if I was immortal with my two best friends, even a good marriage gets old and you have to take a break occasionally - you have to go out to the store and buy some chips! ☺

"WOULD I WANT TO BE IMMORTAL? I'D BE TOO SAD TO SEE THE PEOPLE THAT I FALL IN LOVE WITH, THE PEOPLE I GET ATTACHED TO, GROW OLD AND DIE."

- ceramics and pottery. I have a studio at my house and I spend four or five hours a day in there, making, throwing, glazing. I think my wife would like me to be a little more aggressive with the film and TV work, but you reach an ego where everybody pretty much knows who you are and they say, "Oh, he's not right," or "He's right," and they make a judgment about you based on history or footage. You don't go out and meet that many people. Unless it's a really important part, or they don't know who you are, or they don't trust that you haven't put on 200lbs and become a total alcoholic. If people want to see my work they go on my independent's website and see a 10-minute reel of me and it saves me parking fees! But until then I need an exciting and strong hobby to keep me interested and happy. If I could make money at my pottery, I would do it full time. However, potters are notoriously poor and broke ... but artistically fulfilled. [Laughs]

Are you pleased your postcard starred
as *Supernature*?

It was a fun job to do, and not all of them are as much fun as this...





MYTHS &

Sirens

Sirens are bad news. Causing the destruction of men wherever they go, the Sirens posing as VIII against Nick Morano and various strippers cause closer than most to destroying our beloved Wheel system, and if it weren't for Bobby... well, who knows what would have happened. Fortunately is forewarned, so pay attention as the birds as we present "Sirens III".

Temptations of the Flesh

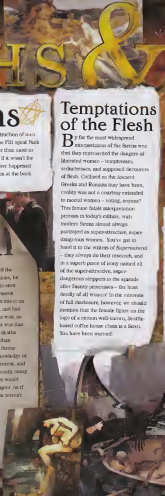
By far the most widespread interpretation of the Sirens was that they represented the dangers of liberated women – temptresses, seductresses, and supposed destroyers of flesh. Childish as the Aeneid Greeks and Romans may have been, civility was not a courtesy extended to mortal women – nothing, anyone? The female female interpretation persists in today's culture, with modern Sirens almost always portrayed as super-attractive, super-dangerous women. You've got to hand it to the writers of *Superwoman* – they always do their research, and in a superb piece of irony named all of the super-attractive, super-dangerous strippers in the episode after Disney princesses – the least deadly of all women? In the interests of full disclosure, however, we should mention that the female figure on the logo of a certain well-known, Seattle-based coffee house chain is a Siren. You have been warned!

The Sirens' Call

In season four's episode Six, *Ave* *Vindicta*, not only did we find out that Desai's greatest desire surprisingly doesn't involve strippers, we were introduced to the created world of the Sirens. An ancient supernatural being, the Sirens has been warning men for thousands of years. First mentioned in Homer's Classical Greek epic poem *The Odyssey*, the Sirens were described as half bird, half-woman, and deadly to all who encountered them. In the poem, the hero Odysseus is warned of the dangers of hearing the Sirens sing on his voyage home by the goddess Circe. Once told Odysseus of their seductive charms – that their song can be resisted by no man, and certain death the reward for heeding their call. Once caught by the allure of the bird-women, the unfortunate sailors would wreck their ships on the treacherous rocks that surround the Sirens' island home. According to Circe, as additional to the rocks, the island was surrounded by the rotting corpses of the men who couldn't resist the call.

As Odysseus' ship approached the island, following Circe's instructions, he got stuck in the ruse of his ears to save them from the Sirens' song. Odysseus himself, being a daring type, was silent on hearing the wondrous melodies, and had his men tie him to the mast, sure wine, so he could hear for himself what it was that drew men so helplessly to their deaths.

Odysseus found that, rather than pleasures of the flesh, what the Sirens offered was knowledge – the knowledge of the universe, everything past, present, and future. In short, they offered divinity along with the promise that the sailors would leave their island woes and happen. As if these promises and curious tales weren't bad enough, it was inferred that the Sirens weren't just enticing men to their deaths for the fun of it, although that seemed to play a part – according to some writers, the girls had a taste for human flesh.



LEGENDS

Sirens and the Argonauts

Although the Sirens have been around forever, and are mentioned not only in *The Odyssey*, but in several other poems of the period – most notably *Apollonius Rhodius' Argonautika* – very little is known about their origin or subsequent lore. *Argonautika* is also an example of a hero, Jason, who escapes the Sirens' call, thanks to the beautiful and no doubt incredibly loud lyre playing of Orpheus. Apart from these two heroes, no others lived long enough to hear the Sirens' wisdom.

Some say the Sirens were the daughters of a river god, while others believe they were otherwisefully beings banished from the afterlife.

Legend has it that the bird-like appearance of the Sirens had something to do with the goddess Demeter, who granted them wings for wings after they failed to stop the kidnapping of Persephone, Demeter's daughter. The wings failed to help them find their companion, and they were doomed to live out their days on a deserted island in the middle of the ocean. Other tales describe how the Sirens lost notice of their brethren – after losing a competition to the Muses, who made their feathers into crowns, but even though the Sirens disappeared into antiquity, their existence in mythology was restored.

The Perils of the Sea

While the origins and true purpose of the three bird-women are somewhat unclear, what is clear is the typically heavy-handed symbolism of the Sirens.

The Ancient Greeks did all of their traveling and trade, by sea, fought wars and defended territory from the coast, and for many, the Sirens represented the Ancient Greeks' relationship with Poseidon's playground. Beautiful and deadly, the sea was the scene of their greatest victories, and their greatest tragedies. A healthy fear of – and respect for – the ocean was a necessity, and tales such as those of the Sirens would have gone some way to ensuring that.

For other scholars, the Sirens held a far deeper meaning than simply playing safe on the ocean. Their presence of eternal knowledge represents each quest for the answers to life, the universe, and everything else. The never-ending shipwrecking and possible cannibalization threatened by the Sirens symbolizes those who would seek to prevent ordinary men becoming enlightened, and possessing those eternal truths. In their eyes, the Sirens represented "The Man" – always keeping a sailor down.

Siren Cults

According to legend, if ever anyone escaped the Sirens' call, the three bird-women would commit suicide by throwing themselves onto the same rocks that had claimed so many sailors' lives.

No one is sure whether it was *Odysseus' or Jason's* escape that forced them to take their lives, but after the Sirens consumed the Greek version of mind control, their bodies were said to have washed up in three separate places. The villagers, who found one of the corpses in what is now modern-day Italy, began to worship the bird-women with yearly rituals. The coastal festivities generally included the *de rigueur* sacrifices of cows, as well as a gruesome competition. These Ancient Greeks really knew how to worship!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Words: Emma Matthews

Supernatural's episode titles have always had a story behind them, but what do they mean? The Official Supernatural Magazine brings you the best of the references so far, and looks at Sam and Dean's rockin' aliases...



Route 66 (episode 113)

Route 66 is the nickname of the famous "motherlode" Route 66. The last remaining stretch of road was renamed Route 481 in 2003. Route 66 has also been called "The Devil's Highway," as the number 66 is popularly known as the number of the Beast, or the Devil.



The Sanders (episode 115)

The Sanders were a family of 19th Century mass murderers from Kansas, much like the Bender family in this episode.

Something Wicked (episode 118)

A line from the Shakespeare play *Macbeth*, spoken by the second Witch in reference to Macbeth (himself). The full line is: "By the prickling of my thumbs something wicked this way comes." The quote is also the title of a Ray Bradbury novel and a Disney movie (featuring a creepy cartoon).



In My Time Of Dying (episode 201)

This episode shares its title with a traditional blues song that was first recorded by Blind Willie Johnson and later covered by Bob Dylan and Led Zeppelin, among others.

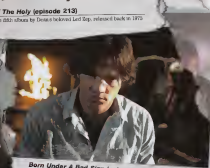


Everybody Loves A Clown (episode 202)

Everybody Loves A Clown is a song by Guy Lewis and the Playboys, recorded in the 1960s. Consider what we find out about his phobias in the episode, the everybody-in-question clearly doesn't include Sam!

House Of The Holy (episode 213)

The tale of the 66th album by Devine beloved Led Zep, released back in 1975

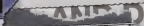


Born Under A Bad Sign (episode 214)

Blues album by Albert King, released in 1967. The title track has been covered by Cream, Jimi Hendrix, and even Bonny Steppan. We wonder if Deus even did three versions.

The Usual Suspects (episode 207)

Not just the title of the Oscar-winning mystery thriller from director Bryan Singer, but also a live from another classic movie - Charles and Untried by the police chief, then rounding up of "the usual suspects" essentially saved Jack Bauer's (Hamptery Regard) life.



Hollywood Babylon (episode 210)

The title of a collection of "true crime stories, as told by female actors. Kenneth Anger is the 1930s Gold in Hollywood's best-kept secrets," the book contained hard stories about celebrities' sex lives, as well as some more radiology photos.

EXERCISE YARD CODE OF CONDUCT

**NO FIGHTING OR THREATS
WILL BE TOLERATED**

**INMATES MUST RETURN TO
CELLS WHEN ALARM SOUNDS**

DO NOT DAMAGE EQUIPMENT

**MISBEHAVIOR WILL RESULT
IN PUNISHMENT**



What Is And What Should Never Be (episode 220)

This was a song on Led Zepplin's 1969 album Led Zepplin II, allegedly about a love affair singer Robert Plant had he shouldn't have been having.

Folsom Prison Blues (episode 219)

A song by the late great Johnny Cash, from the album he recorded at the infamous prison. At Folsom Prison Opened in 1933, Folsom was one of America's first maximum security prisons, and once housed some and star of film like Don Ame and Sherrybaby Deany Togo. True story



All Hell Breaks Loose (episodes 221 and 222)

This comes from the poem *Paradise Lost*, by John Milton. "But whether it's *Lost*? Wherefore does it not all Hell break loose? Who says TV can't be intellectual?"



The Kids Are Alright (episode 302)

A song and a documentary about legendary British rock band The Who. The movie premiered at Cannes in 1979 and featured concert footage, candid interviews with the band, and a kickass soundtrack. Director Keith Moon died before the film was completed, and The Who were never the same afterward.



The Magnificent Seven (episode 301)

Named for the 1960 American western directed by John Sturges and starring Yul Brynner and the epitome of cool that was Steve McQueen. The film was itself a meeting of the 1954 Akira Kurosawa movie *Seven Samurai*, a cinematic classic.

Bad Day At Black Rock (episode 303)

Oscar-nominated thriller directed by John Sturges and starring Spencer Tracy as a one-armed man. Visiting a backwater town to deliver a medal to a local man, whose son died in the war, Tracy's character uncovers a deadly secret.



Red Sky At Morning (episode 306)

Armed alarm that allegedly predicts the weather - "Red sky at night, sailor's delight. Red sky at morning, sailor's warning." "Red Sky At Morning" means bad weather ahead.

Sin City (episode 304)

The classic graphic novel by Frank Miller (aka a legend), as well as the reference for several scenes around the world, including Las Vegas, that cater to one of Dean's favorite pastimes - adult parties.

A Very Supernatural Christmas (episode 304)

A reference to the Christmas TV specials network went so far as to bring back the 1970s

ALIAS SAM AND DEAN

Sam and Dean are often a little free with the truth when it comes to their identities during their investigations. How wondrous when they get their names from? Wonder no more...

DEAN

Ted Nugent (Pilot) - Classic rock legend more famous these days for his love of rehashing than his guitar riffs or great songs

Nigel Tufnel (Anytime) - Guitarist and lead guitarist with "real" supergroup Spinal Tap in the classic spoof rockumentary *This Is Spinal Tap*

John Bonham (Scarecrow) - Deceased drummer from Dean's beloved Led Zep. A little too obvious a parody, perhaps, as Dean was more subtly caught out by another classic rock fan

Alan Smithee (Children, Shouldn't Play With Dead Things) - Character from the 1988 movie

Finch, about a reporter (played by Chevy Chase) who often makes up entire stories, just like Sam and Dean.

Major Telford (as told by Sam in Tell Taylor) - One of Dean's more innovative pick-up licks ("Major Telford, Shasta Co-pier") this is of course a reference to the character created by David Bowie in 1980 for his hit song *Space Oddity*, allegedly after seeing the movie 1960 *A Space Odyssey*

O. Roeschhoff (Dean's signature in All Hallows' Eve) - Because you don't know the Hell. We have a feeling Dean was a fan of Roeschhoff's show

Myronch, thanks to its many seven-foot-tall babies

Sigfried Roudine (Dean's credit card as seen in The Walls are Alive) - Two of the world's greatest composers, Sigfried (of "and Ray" fame) and Harry Roudine co-lead in Dean's psyche - maybe as allusion to the disappearing acts the boys often pull?

Mr. Thugs (Dean's car) - Registration to No Rest For The Wicked - An homage to Sammy Hagar, one-time lead singer of legendary rock band Van Halen

Dean Van Halen (in The Beginning) - After the guitar

musical Eddie himself Michael J. Fox's Marty McFly, who, like Dean, also goes back in time to meet the younger version of his parents in the movie *Back To The Future*, sees the band's name too when he points an arrow from the planet Van Halen!

Agnes Ulrich (Guns Angel is A Doublebag) - Metallica ex-singer and drummer Lars Ulrich gets his own mention

Courtly Bish (After School Special) - The dodgeball-loving P.E. teacher Dean poses as takes his name from singer David Lee Roth of Van Halen and later tells these





Melissa Melfonarium (episode 309)

Affectionately known as the Witch Hunter's Manual, the title translation as "The Harbinger Against Witches," and was the book used by the Catholic Church's Inquisition. First published in 1487 in Germany, and anonymous as the author, both the book and the inquisition were responsible for as many as 100,000 deaths.



Jus in Bello (episode 312)

"Jus in Bello" comes "Justice in war" in Latin, referring to the guidelines for fighting well and with honor once war has begun. Which it certainly has for the Winchester's in this episode!

...divided from
...the classic "werewolf
...of an American
...and Joe Dante

Time Is On My Side (episode 315)

"Time Is On My Side" is a song famously recorded by classic British band The Rolling Stones in 1964.

the band responsible for Dean's virtual immortality
...there have, "Highway to Hell"

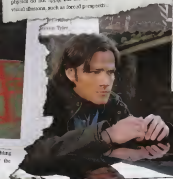
Dream A Little Dream Of Me (episode 310)

Not just a song recorded by the late Marlene Dietrich, but *Dream A Little Dream* is also a cheesy 1940s tale of body swapping and youthful romance, starring the Corbys Helen and Feldman. For those of you lucky enough to have been born in the 1940s, the Two Corbys were ubiquitous teen stars during the decade that *Dreams* began, before disappearing into obscurity. However, they did manage to make the cult horror film *The Lost Boys* before their career downfall.



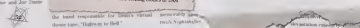
Mystery Spot (episode 311)

A reference to so-called mystery spots that actually exist. The spot that Sam and Dean go to is based on the spot near Death Creek, which opened in 1940. The operators claim that the laws of physics do not apply, but the effects are mostly caused by visual distortions, such as forced perspective.



No Rest For The Wicked (episode 316)

A biblical phrase literally meaning that the wicked shall be tormented, it's also an album by Greg Gorman - coincidence?





Lazarus Rising (episode 401)

In the biblical story, the brother of Mary Magdalene, Lazarus, was raised from the dead by Jesus. The resurrection of Lazarus caused the enemies of Jesus to begin plotting his downfall.



Are You There God? It's Me... Dean Winchester (episode 402)

Based on the title of the classic chick-lit novel *Are You There God? It's Me... Margaret* by Judy Blume. Published in 1970, and often the subject of controversy because of its frank religious discussions, along with some very dubious crosses, the novel followed the travails of 13-year-old pre-teen Margaret. Often conversing with God, and beginning with the titular phrase, Margaret makes her way through the perils of adolescence, with help a wingman, slumberer or demon in sight.



Metamorphosis (episode 404)

Named after the novella by Franz Kafka about the burden a man feels his family place on him, which turns him into something unsociable—an enormous insect—before finally killing him.



ALIAS SAM AND DEAN SAM

Idiot Inspector (Sam's ID, as seen in *Swearing Witches*)—Dean's little joke. Always pay close attention to ID!

Jim Rockford (*The Mental*)—The idea the boys are afraid they get split up, thus is based on the detective from the TV series *The Rockford Files* played by James Garner. Jim Rockford was a former convict who was fairly impressed—it's obvious why the boys love this idea.

Richard Simmons (*Born Under A Bad Sign*)—Guarant from rock band *Bad Sign*. The scariest thing about this class perhaps is Dean's preaching for hair metal.

Wedge Antilles (*Lazarus Rising*)—Sam's cell phone account, registered under the name of the X-wing pilot played by Denis Lawson (Dana McGargle's uncle) in the three original *Star Wars* movies.

Michael Chabon (*When The Lines Break*)—To evade Dean and Bobby, Sam checks into the hotel under the name of this renowned writer, not realizing Dean had joined him reading Chabon's last book before 'The book in question was raised, though we think Chabon's 2007 novel *Gentlemen Of The Road* about a pair of unshocking bandits, would be pretty apt.



It's the Great Pumpkin, Sam Winchester (episode 407)

A play on the Peanuts classic *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*. First broadcast in 1969, the special has been shown every Halloween since. Lame, morning the only person ever to have believed in the Great Pumpkin, spends his Halloween in the pumpkin patch, waiting for the sinister fruit, which never materializes.

I Knew What You Did Last Summer (episode 408)

The episode takes its name from the 1987 slasher movie where a group of teens are stalked by a killer working a hook. We feel Dean would be a fan, if only for the promise of Jennifer Love Hewitt in the cast.



Chris Argent Is A Douchebag (episode 412)

Also known as Christopher Sarandon, Chris really is a street smarten, dissembler and Physicist-mathematician. As to whether or not he's a douchebag... well, we'll leave that to your own discretion!

DYNAMIC DUOS

Agents Ford and Howl (*Dead in the Water*) – Not only references to Star Wars actors Harrison and Mark, but as Jensen Ackles revealed in these very pages, how the roles in *Supernatural* were packed to him – Dean as Han to Sam's Luke. Who wouldn't want to be Han Solo?

The Ross Sammons and Pothley (*Nightmare*) – From the gods of cheap rock theatrics, Ross, in reference to band members Gene Simmons and Ace Frehley. Maybe the monochromatic gents get up gone Dean the idea, though they fortunately didn't copy the band's iconic face painting.

Billy Gibbons and Frank Beard (*Crossroads*) – An homage to two members of ZZ Top. Because – as Dean is well aware – all the girls are crazy 'bout a sharp dressed man.

Detectives Landis and Dante (*Heard*) – Two characters responsible for classic werewolf horror movies. John Landis of *An American Werewolf in London* and Joe Dante, director of *The Howling*...

Detectives Fitch and Page (*Medicine Stories*) – The grimey vocal and guitar duo Robert Fitch and Jimmy Page from Devlin's beloved Led Zeppelin.

Agents Buchanan and Turner (*Mellow Yellow*) – A nod to the classic rock band Buchanan-Turner Overdrive, best known for the US's anthem "You Ain't Gotta Nothing Yet," which is Dean's soundtrack of choice for his encounter with the "Bendless Vector" in season three's opener *The Holy Grail* story.

Messrs Campbell and Hume (*Long Distance Call*) – Is reference to the number seven gods behind the *Red Dead* films – Emmy Award actor Bruce Campbell and director Sam Raimi. Raimi's brother Ted has his own connection with *Supernatural* – he played hapless Wes Montgomery in season four's *Wastful Wreckless*.

Agents Argus and Young (*Monster Movie*) – After Argus Young, co-founder of NDDC, the band responsible for Dean's virtual theme tune, "Highway to Hell".

Agents Tyler and Perry (*Where Perry*) – Also known as "The Toxic Twins," Gavin Tyler and Joe Perry are the founding members of Aerosmith.

Agents Gordy and Lee (*It's The Great Pumpkin, Sam Winchester*) – After Gordy Lee, the bass player and vocalist for Canadian rock legends Rush.

City Workers Stanwyck and Baker (*Family Business*) – Another Fitch homage.

Agents Skyles and Woodcock (*Sam And Michael*) – From the principal characters in the 1980s classic TV series *Smile 55*. It was a show about two men traveling the country in a mobile car helping the helpless – when *Supernatural* was first picked up, the network described it as "Smile 55 meets *The X-Files*".

Agents DeYoung and Shaw (*The Monster at the End of This Book*) – After Devlin DeYoung and Young Shaw from the rock band Styx, whose song "Heavy Metal" was memorably played in the final of season three's *Nightcrawler*.



After School Special (episode 413)

The first created by ABC, but a series of made-for-TV movies dealing with controversial issues scored at school-aged kids. Titles included *The Day My Kid Went Pink*, *What If I'm Gay?*, and *My Dad Lives In A Dreamtown Motel*. The moral of the *Supernatural After School Specials*? Don't mess with the *Weekend Update*!

On The Head Of A Pin (episode 416)

From the question "How many angels can dance (on) on some version(s) of) on the head of a pin?" used to question the belief in the immortality of angels, exemplified by medieval theologians like Thomas Aquinas.



Jump The Shark (episode 419)

Takes its name from a scene in the *Hollywood*, *Part Three* of *Three* episode of the 1980s-era, 1970s sitcom *Happy Days*, where the usually cool Fonz is urged to "Jump the shark" while water skiing (wearing his trademark leather jacket, no less). The term has become a colloquialism for any act or scene that sends a TV show into the realm of the ridiculous, often when past its peak.

The Rapture (episode 420)

The Rapture is a prophesied event in Christian eschatology (the study of religious beliefs about future and final events), in which Christians will gather to participate in the Second Coming of Christ. Those who believe in the Rapture believe that Christians who have died will be resurrected to participate in the coming of Christ, along with those who are still living.

When The Levee Breaks (episode 421)

Named after the blues song recorded by Kansas Joe McCoy and Memphis Minnie in 1929 (and later covered by Led Zepplin) about the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 that imagined how much more devastation would be caused if the last levee (at Goodland) broke. Director Spike Jonze was inspired by the song to name his documentary feature about the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina *When The Levee Breaks*.

Death Takes A Holiday (episode 415)

A 2004 episode in which Death takes leaving him to find out why we don't stay and this is just. But it reminds us *Most Am Shock*, starring Brad Pitt. Death was never hurt!



It's A Terrible Life (episode 417)

A play on the title of the classic holiday song *It's A Wonderful Life*, made in 1946. In the film, a miserly man (played by James Stewart) is shown by the 'angel, second class,' Clarence who has hometown and the people he knows would have been like if he had never existed. Shows that those he knew were better off for knowing him, George realizes his early days have a "wonderful life."

The Monster At The End Of This Book (episode 418)

This episode takes its name from the 1971 children's book *The Monster At The End Of This Book* starring Lovable, Puffy Old Grouer featuring *Seuss' Best Of This Book* starring Lovable, Puffy Old Grouer. In the book, Grouer is scared when he hears there's a monster at the end of the book, and tries to stop the reader from finishing the book so as to avoid the monster, even laying obstacles for them. In the end, the monster in question turns out to be an embarrassed Grouer himself.



Lucifer Rising (episode 422)

The episode starts its name with a 1962 psychological horror short directed by Kenneth Anger, author of the aforementioned *Hollywood Babylon*. The film featured several rock luminaries of the time, mainly singer and actress Marianne Faithfull (as Lady), Led Zepplin's guitarist Jimmy Page, and Rolling Stone Mick Jagger's brother Chris, along with Bobby Beaulieu, who was a member of the infamous Manson Family gang, which committed a series of notorious murders in California.



HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Words: Kate Lloyd



When Sam and Dean went back to one of their former high schools in season four's *After School Special*, it meant we also got to see what they were like as high school students. Actors **COLIN FORD** and **BROCK KELLY** tell us about playing the younger Winchester...

When *The Official Supernatural Magazine* last spoke to Colin Ford, we concluded the interview by asking the crumbly youngster whether he'd like to reappear on the show following his star turn as the young Dean Winchester in season three's *A Very Supernatural Christmas*. His response?

"I would absolutely love to!" Well, Ford got his wish earlier than you think he returned to play the young Dean once again in the flashback episode *After School Special*.

"I was so happy to be able to come back," says Ford. "I love the people on *Supernatural*, and I love working on the show."

Despite the fact that he's still only 15 years old, Ford is already an industry veteran. His résumé includes starring roles in everything from *Steel Dawn* (Alabama alongside the Oscar-winning Gene Wilder), to the recent blockbuster *Park*, in which he played a younger version of Chris Evans' Nick. ("It was a terrific movie to work on. We filmed in Hong Kong, which is where the story is set, and it's one of the most amazing, exotic places I've ever visited.") Not so for Ford's *After School Special* co-star Brock Kelly, who, clad in his new exotic leather jacket and wearing a permanent scowl, was perfect as the teenage Dean Winchester. With only a string of soap opera guest spots to his name, the 23-year-old Louisiana native is the first to admit he's still cutting his teeth in Hollywood.

"I got lucky," reveals Kelly of his burrito introduction into the industry. "I moved to California when I was 17.

I hadn't graduated from high school, or anything, I just stopped going, which seemed like a really good idea at the time. I met this girl and she showed me around town and let me know her dad. I was driving around bored one day when I spotted this banner in front of an acting school. I called up the number and the guy told me to come in and see him. I grew up as an athlete and had never really done any acting. I think the extent of my experience was playing an orphan in a production of *Oliver Twist* when I was about seven. I had one line, so that was my first real acting class.

"Unfortunately I was out of money soon after, so I decided to move back to Louisiana to finish high school, which is what my mother wanted," says Kelly. "Then, when I graduated, I didn't feel ready for college, so I came back to California. The class I'd attended the first time wasn't really working for me, so I spoke to the director and he introduced me to another acting teacher. He got my career started by introducing me to different agents. My first audition was for *The Young and the Restless*. It was only a small part, but I got the role. After that, I was bitten by the acting bug and decided to really commit to it."

While Ford's fantastic performance as the young Sam in *A Very Supernatural Christmas* meant his return was just a case of working out schedules, newcomer Kelly went through the more traditional route of auditioning for the show's production team.

"I had two auditions," he explains. "The first was with *Supernatural*'s casting director, and the second was with Eric Kaplan. He gave me a little bit of insight into what the character was about, and then they called me back the next day and told me I'd got the part."



O CANADA

For the Tennessee-born Ford, returning to Vancouver was a dream come true, not only because he got to hang out with *Supernatural*'s much-loved crew again, but also because he's a huge fan of the Canadian city.

"Vancouver is actually one of my most favorite places to go, and I hope to even hang up there one day," Ford reveals. "It's also home to one of my favorite restaurants, a steakhouse called Gotham."

Kelly was equally taken with both the city of Vancouver and the show's phenomenal crew.

"I used to be a valet, so I've driven Aston Martins and all that, but the Impala takes the cake." — Brock Kelly

"I was on set for three days, but up in Vancouver for seven," he recalls. "One night, a couple of cameramen and I went to one of the casinos and played poker until six in the morning. It was really cool getting to hang those guys."

Similar to Ford, who revealed in his previous chat with *The Official Supernatural Magazine* that he hadn't watched *Supernatural* prior to his audition, Kelly admits that he was also a newcomer to the series.

"I hadn't seen it," he admits. "Not because I didn't like the sound of the show or anything, but because I haven't had a television for two years. I don't own one, a computer. The such a caveman — I'm actually a bit like Dean!" Now, however, Kelly can't get enough. "Oh yeah, I'm hooked," he laughs. "I've got the last three seasons on DVD, and I've watched every single episode. I can't wait until the fourth season comes out."

As for Ford, he's still a dedicated fan. "I am absolutely still watching the show,"

he says. "Now it and it's getting even better. One of my favorite episodes from the third season is *The Kiss Are Alright*. I thought all those kids did a really great job, and I think my favorite episode from this season is *Are There Bees There God? It's Me, Dean Winchester That was crazy!*"

Although *Supernatural* viewers haven't always agreed with the casting trends of *crews* in the past, both Kelly as teen Dean and Ford as more-than were warmly received by fans. Despite this glowing reception, Kelly admits that landing another actor on screen was one of the toughest acting challenges he's faced.

"I've never really interacted anyone on film," he reveals. "I've done it in reality, making fun of friends and teachers or whatever, but I'd never tried to be another person on screen. I didn't really know how to approach it."

Thankfully, the real Dean was on hand to offer some words of advice.

"I met Jensen Ackles, and he was really cool," Kelly explains. "He elevated what I was trying to do with the character just by talking to me. I had watched the pilot episode when we met, and we discussed that a little bit — just where we were from and all that. He gave me real insight."

Ford found Jared Padalecki equally helpful, even if their time together was all too brief.

"I was the boy for only about 10 or 15 minutes," he reveals with a chuckle. "Jared and Jensen were going home for Thanksgiving break, so they were leaving just as Brock and I got there. It was like, 'Hello, how are you doing?' 'Gotta go, bye!' But we did go over a few things from the script. I got to talk to Jared for a bit, and Brock got to talk to Jensen. They're great guys."



SCHOOL DAZE

EXTRA INFO

After *School Spirit* won the young Sam and Dean attending Truman High for a few weeks while their father is off working a job. For Sam, the experience proved a memorable one: he gets the letter of the school bully and receives some valuable advice from kind English teacher Mr. Wyatt. Asked whether a teacher has ever given him important guidance, Ford pauses for thought.

"Let me start by saying I've had some really great teachers," announces the youngster after a moment. "My fifth grade teacher was definitely an inspiration to me. She was a big writer, and she taught me a lot about writing and writing styles. I love writing in the same way Sam loves writing. One day, I'd love to write a script, maybe even for *Supernatural*. That would be so much fun!"

As to how his own school days are going, Ford admits that juggling home work with an acting career can sometimes be tricky.

"I just came back from a seven-week shoot, and it's kind of hard to get back into schoolwork because of finals. But my teachers have been so great with me in terms of working with my schedule, and I've always made really good grades," he says.

Kelly, meanwhile, was surprised to find Dean's school days virtually mirrored his own.

"I went to maybe seven different schools," he reveals. "Some of them were good, and some of them were bad, so I feel for the *Winchester* jumping around all the time."

As Kelly quickly admits, Dean's time at Truman High wasn't a total wash-out, however. He did get to know some very pretty girls...

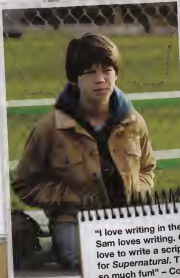
"It's kind of awkward at first, but once you get started it's like knowing any other girl, I guess!" says a laughing Kelly of the experience.

COMING SOON

What Colin Ford and Brock Kelly did next...

Ford: "I just got home from a seven-week shoot in Iowa on a film called *Freaky Out*, starring Ray Lewin. Iowa is one of the coldest places you could ever go. I was wearing four of the jackets some days. I think if we'd had the option to do it in a different location, I wouldn't say no, though. Just having that experience of the cold with everyone was great. Ray was a fantastic guy. I learned a lot from him. He's very funny. Very, very funny." *Freaky Out* will be released in theaters in early 2009.

Kelly: "*Costa Rican Summer* is a teenage comedy. I play a kid who recently graduated from high school, which is really good at acting. When we came here he's trying to decide whether to go home or to go to college, so he's been accepted to Stanford. While he's deciding, he goes down to Costa Rica to his aunt's motel, which is going into foreclosure. To help his aunt keep the motel, he teams up with the local surfers with the hope that he'll beat the real estate agent in a surf competition. He's also got this little love connection going on with a girl who's staying at the motel. It was so much fun to shoot - I wouldn't even consider it work!" *Costa Rican Summer* will be released in theaters in July 2009.



"I love writing in the same way Sam loves writing. One day, I'd love to write a script, maybe even for *Supernatural*. That would be so much fun!" - Colin Ford



WINCHESTER

FIGHT CLUB

"I loved the fighting. It took a little bit of choreography, but it was a lot of fun."
- Colin Ford

Although their school days couldn't have been more different, one thing Kelly and Ford - who have kept in touch since *After School Special* and are now good friends - do have in common in their love of the Impala.

"I have a newer one, a 2005 model," shares Kelly. "But after being in the Impala, I want to sell mine. That car was one of the coolest cars I've ever been in. I used to be a valet, so I've driven Aston Martins and all that, but the Impala takes the cake."

"It's amazing. It's one of the coolest cars I've ever sat in or even seen," echoes Ford. "I love classic cars and would like to be able to own one like that when I grow up."

Surprisingly, given the tenderness of their grown-up counterparts, it was Dean rather than Dean who clashed out a beating in *After School Breakdown*. It's an experience Ford won't be forgetting in a hurry.

"I loved the fighting," Ford recalls. "It took a little bit of choreography, but it was a lot of fun. We worked on it for

about three days, off and on, and I think it turned out really well."

Asked whether he was disappointed at his lack of fight scenes, Kelly just laughs. "I wasn't really disappointed, you've got to give and take, I guess," he jokes. "I would love to do the show again though, and if I do, I'd like to fight some ghosts this time. I want to get that sawed-off shotgun in my hands. I'm ready!"

Which, in the interest of fairness, should mean that it's Ford's turn to get the girl...

"I think that's a fantastic idea," the young actor concludes with a giant smile. "I like that idea very much." ☼

"I don't even own a computer. I'm such a caveman - I'm actually a lot like Dean!"
- Brock Kelly





angels in the flesh

I took with me, and words cannot describe how much the show has helped me. Let's just say life wasn't exactly going my way all the time, but it helped immensely that I could always look forward to Thursday night and getting involved in the Winchester lives. Through everything that Eric Kripke, the writers, the directors, the actors, the crew have done, I feel as if I know the characters involved in the show. I feel every single week as if I know what Sam or Dean is thinking and going through, and that is all due to those wonderful people who work so hard on the show we all love.

I just wanted to thank everyone (and especially the magazine as I have every single one!) responsible for bringing us the Winchester brothers every week!
Ashley Hines, Baton, OH
We're glad Supernatural has helped you and means so much to you, Ashley!

I was compelled to write to the magazine because, let's face it, *Supernatural* is the greatest show ever created. There are so many episodes I could use as examples, but *Mystery Spot* springs to mind first. It has everything: angst, drama, comedy, great acting, great filming, everything! What I love about this show is that any of those descriptions could be used for any episode.

I started watching the show from the very beginning in 2005 and haven't stopped since. When I went away to college in the fall of 2007, *Supernatural* was the only constant

heavenly body

I don't think anyone reading this would disagree when I say Sam and Dean are the best partnership on any TV show ever written. Their quips and antics are what make the show such a big part of so many people's lives.

When the banishment was dropped that an angel rescued Dean from Hell, I was a little worried, but Castiel (Jensen Ackles) has had quite an impact on the show so far. Castiel has shown Dean that there is more to his existence than he thought. Mike has had such a big role and responsibility in the show that he's become a bona-fide member of the *Supernatural* family. If there's an episode without him, I feel like there's something missing. All these actors - Jensen, Jared and Mike - they are the show. They are what makes *Supernatural* what it is.



Kelly-Rae, via email

You're not alone in your love of Sam and Dean's angelic ally!

fact fiction

Yellow-bellied sapsucker once quirt, or something more precise in Latin? Each issue we drive into the world of the strange to bring you a bit so terrifying, you'll struggle to sleep at night. This time we look at the case of the Boggy Creek Creature.

Locals named the Boggy Creek Creature or the Poole Monster after the Arkansas town near where it's been seen, and it's one of the most well-known local legends in America. Boasting similarities to legendary creatures like the Sasquatch of the Pacific Northwest, the Yeti of the Himalayas, and the Yeti of China, it's been described as an ape-like creature of between seven and 10 feet tall, with long, dark hair, a hunched posture, a foul odor, and bright and eyes the size of silver dollars.

The most famous encounter with the creature occurred in May 1971, when Bobby and Elizabeth Ford, who had recently moved to the area, suffered a terrifying experience. After several nights of hearing something moving around outside the house, Elizabeth was awakened one night by something reaching through a screen window as she slept on the sofa. At first she thought it was a bear, then Bobby and his brother Don returned from a hunting trip and chased the strange creature away. The Fords shot at it, but no blood was found afterward. Three days, however, scratch marks on the porch, house siding and windows, and three-foot footprints. Later, one night, the creature returned and attacked Mr. Ford from behind on the porch, throwing him to the floor. Mr. Ford escaped and was treated for scratches and shock.

Two days later, an ape-like creature was seen crossing Highway 71 by three motorists, and sightings continued for several years, with three-foot tracks often being found. Attempts to trace the creature, however, were all in vain. The number of sightings decreased until 1976, when there was some sightings several hours' drive from Poole. Sightings were sporadic until the 1990s.

In 1991 there was a report of the creature jumping from a nearby bridge, in 1997 there was a staggering 40 reported sightings, and in 1999 the creature was again spotted in a city street some miles from Poole.

The creature was blamed for a series of local livestock losses, as well as attacks on domestic pets. Far from being shy and elusive, it was reported as being highly aggressive in its demeanor.

Scientists who examined the three-foot tracks pointed out that all primates have five toes rather than three, and that while primates tend to be diurnal (active in the day) and nesting at night, this creature is apparently nocturnal. However, the Boggy Creek Creature could be something else entirely.

The Boggy Creek Creature has inspired three different movies: *The Legend of Boggy Creek*, *Savage 20*, *Boggy Creek 20*, and *Boggy Creek 20*. *Legend* and *Boggy Creek 20* are the most famous.

TRINIA

POSSIBLE EXPLANATION

Sightings of the Boggy Creek Creature could be attributed to misidentification of bears or other wild animals, or even hallucinations.

SUPERNATURAL



Next time in
The Official Supernatural Magazine

COMING UP



THE OTHER BROTHER

Jake Abel on the Winchester's
secret sibling, Adam!

CASTING THE NET

Supernatural's casting team
talk about hiring the best!

MAKING SHAPES

Shapeshifter Todd Stashwick
shares his experiences!

POSTERS!

NEWS!

CLASSIC EPISODE!

WHO YOU
GONNA CALL!

GOOD OMENS

Jared and Jensen on what's
in store for season five!

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Guy Talk

Who you gonna call?

Deeva in your den? Banshee in your bathroom? Hellhound howling at the door? Whatever your unexplained phenomena, the Winchester brothers are on hand to help...

Dear Sam and Dean,
I'm terrified by something that keeps happening to me at night. I keep waking up, and although I'm awake, I can't move, like I am being pushed down by a weird force. Am I being attacked by a poltergeist?

Anthony Lenta, Las Vegas, Nevada



Sam says: It sounds like what you're suffering from is sleep paralysis. It's not supernatural in origin, but it sure can feel that way. Sleep paralysis is caused when the brain wakes from a deep REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, while the body remains paralyzed by sleep. This leaves you conscious, but unable to move, which can be a scary experience in itself. Cultures around the world have explained sleep paralysis using an supernatural experience. In some African cultures, for instance, sleep paralysis is referred to as "the witch taking your back," while in Icelandic folklore it's thought to be caused by the *Moss*, a demon that sits on your chest at night. In reality, however, it's just a physical condition.



Dean says: Sleep paralysis can also cause you to hallucinate and see or hear things that aren't there, and to feel a sense of danger. Those folks who think they've been stalked by demons have probably just experienced sleep paralysis. Still, I often feel like there's a supernatural force that keeps me on the back.



Sam says: I think that's your Major Plegion addiction, Dean.

Dear Sam and Dean,
A few weeks ago, a black cat crossed my path. Before then, it seems like I've had a run of bad luck. My car broke down, a bad flea into my bathroom window, breaking it, and my luggage went missing at the airport and I've still not had it returned. Is it all down to that kitty?

Brenda McKernan, Boston, Massachusetts



Sam says: Superstitious about cats may be the world's oldest. Brenda, while in Judaism it's often seen as bad luck for a black cat to cross your path, in Britain and Ireland it's generally considered

good luck for a black cat to do the very same thing. The view of a black cat crossing bad luck has its roots in the Middle Ages, when many people thought the Devil could take the form of a black cat. Black cats (or even white cats) were also often suspected of being the familiars of witches - magical agents that helped witches cast spells and bewitch people. Unfortunately, on holy days, cats were often killed by superstitious types as a result. In ancient Egypt, however, cats were worshipped and treated like divine beings - to kill a cat there was a crime punishable by death.



Dean says: Sounds like cats have always been a love 'em or hate 'em kind of thing. If you see that black cat again, just get it. It's not the cause of your run of bad luck, no matter how many times it crosses your path. That's just an old wives' tale.



Sam says: When it comes to bad luck, it's rabbit's foot, you really have to look out for

Dear Sam and Dean,
When I'm in my house, often I'll pass a room or a doorway and glimpse a dark figure standing there. When I look again, however, it's gone. It's not always in the same room, either. How often I've worried that my house is haunted!

Bill Meadows, Birmingham, England



Dean says: Sounds like a case of shadow people to me. There have been countless witness reports of these over the years. They're usually seen as human-shaped silhouettes as people's peripheral vision that disappear or that move through walls. Some people believe they're a thought-form like a Triska, created by traumatic events in a particular place.



Sam says: It's notable that most sightings of shadow people seem to occur in peripheral vision. This vision is linked to the part of the brain that recognizes patterns, but is less direct than your forward vision. This can lead to something called pareidolia, where your brain interprets patterns of light or shadow as being a familiar shape, like a person. In other words, it's probably just your mind playing tricks on you.

Dean says: Whether it's your mind playing tricks or not, shadow people don't seem to be



hostile. If these things are just standing around, chances are they don't want to hurt you. Call us when they start throwing stuff or trying to drag you down so it'll be in Ghost. Now, Dean Moore was not in that movie!

